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Paris, Wednesday, December 2, 1998

No. 36.003

2 Takeovers Underscore Weakness Of Oil Prices

Notal to Buy Petrofina, And Exxon Confirms Acquisition of Mobil

> By Mitchell Martin nternational Herald Tribune

NEW YORK — Plunging oil prices were widely cited as the reason behind two big energy-company takeovers announced Tuesday, including Exxon Corp.'s planned acquisition of Mobil Corp. for more than \$80 billion in the largest-ever corporate combination.

In Europe, Total SA of France announced a two-part purchase of Per-rofina SA of Belgium, valuing the com-pany at about \$11 billion. Petrofina's operations are concentrated in refining and marketing, diluting Total's reliance the production of energy, a commodity whose price has been sliding as world economic growth weakens.

A year ago, crude oil futures on the New York Mercantile Exchange traded above \$19.40 a barrel. On Tuesday, they were quoted at \$11.08.

The latest round of weakness in oil prices was linked to the failure of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to reduce petroleum produc-tion, traders said. The oil cartel held a meeting last week but failed to address a growing glut of petroleum.

At the same time, the slowing global economy continues to reduce demand for basic commodities such as oil.

Another deal that reflected these de-

flationary pressures was the decision announced Tuesday by Hoechst AG of Germany and Rhone-Poulenc SA of France to join their drug and agrochemicals businesses as a preliminary step to an overall merger. Before that can happen, the companies are planning to sell their commodity chemicals operations, which face competition from lower-wage operations in Asia and global

oversupply (Page 15)
One way to combat the collapse in energy prices is for companies to merge expect Exxon Mobil Corp., as the new company is to be called, to shed more than 10,000 jobs from the combined 122,000 of the two companies. The increased size of the companies will also create economies of scale that could pose problems for smaller competitors, especially in Asia.

The U.S. oil giants expect to achieve \$2.8 billion in "near-term pretax synergies," according to a joint statement by Lee Raymond and Lucio Noto, the current chairmen of Exxon and Mobil.
"The merger will significantly en-

ance shareholder value by enabling us o manage the combined assets of Exxon and Mobil to produce a higher return on capital employed than either company could achieve on a standalone basis," the statement added.

Exxon Mobil would be the biggest oil refiner in the world. Along with Royal Dutch/Shell Group and the combination of British Petroleum PLC and Amoco Corp., it would form a triumvirate of giant companies that would be at least twice as large as any of their competitors. Based on 1997 figures from the Fortune 500 rankings, Exxon Mobil had \$182 billion of sales; Royal Dutch had \$122 billion; and the combined BP and Amoco, \$104 billion. Total Fina, by contrast, would have \$46.5 billion, making it one of the biggest of the second tier.

Faxon and Mobil were part of the

See DEALS Page 11

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Quebec Separatists Win 5 More Years

House Panel

Funds Issue to

Clinton Inquiry

By Brian Knowlton

International Herald Tribune

widening the impeachment inquiry of

President Bill Clinton, the Republican-

dominated House Judiciary Committee

voted Tuesday to seek testimony from

Justice Department officials who have

called for Mr. Clinton to be investigated

for possible campaign finance abuses.

The move, which came even as the

inquiry had been winding toward a con-

clusion, drew angry objections from the

White House and Democratic congress-

Joe Lockhart, the president's spokes-

man, said that the investigation had been

of evidence of impeachable offenses.

Democratic members of the commit-

They said it would make a mockery

of the inquiry, which until now focused

'hijacked by extremists.''

expedition.'

WASHINGTON - Dramatically

Adds Campaign

Premier Lucien Bouchard getting a victory hug from his principal adviser, Bob Dufour, as the Parti Quebecois was returned to power in provincial elections. But the victory was less than full, with the showing by the Liberal Party undercutting separatists' hopes for seeking independence from Canada. Page 3.

Storm Cloud Over the EU

Bonn-Paris Rift Threatens to Block Expansion

By William Drozdiak

POTSDAM, Germany - A deepening policy rift between France and Germany is threatening to paralyze efforts to reform the 15-nation European Union and block its planned expansion process to embrace up to a half-dozen new members, mainly former Communist countries in the East, within the next

The divisions between Paris and Bonn, whose relationship is often de-scribed as the motor that propels efforts to achieve European unity, were laid bare Tuesday on a wide range of issues following a two-day summit meeting that illustrated how competing national interests are pushing the two allies

Despite grandiose rhetoric extolling the close friendship between their countries, French and German leaders found themselves sharply at odds over nuclear energy, plans for a Continental arms industry to compete with the United States, Germany's demands to cut its EU payments and France's refusal to accept any reduction in farm subsidies.

In the past, German governments have been inclined to pay a dispro-portionate share of the EU bill and accept France's political primacy in return for reconciliation with their neighbors and steady progress toward European unity. But the arrival in power of Germany's first postwar generation, embodied by Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, has signaled a clear break with unreserved German financial support for the European Union.

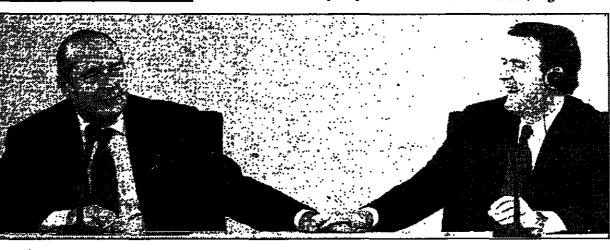
In their first meeting with Mr. Schroeder since he swept to power in September elections with a new governing coalition of Social Democrats and Greens, President Jacques Chirac and Prime Minister Lionel Jospin of France discovered that the present German government seems much less willing than its predecessors to defer to French wishes and keep funding costly programs that mainly benefit Germany's parmers.

The meeting brought together more than two dozen ministers to discuss almost every aspect of the French-German relationship in the shadow of the impressive 18th-century palaces where Voltaire shared philosophical exchanges with Frederick the Great. But the declared purpose of revitalizing bonds between the Continent's two leading countries seemed overwhelmed by their incompatibility of views on key

Mr. Schroeder emphasized that Germany, which will assume the rotating presidency of the European Union in January, wanted to achieve a major overhaul of EU programs, known as Agenda 2000, by March. But at the top the list, Mr. Schroeder insisted, is Germany's demand for a significant rebate on the \$12 billion net contribution it makes to the EU each year.

Germany also wants to curtail the Union's farm support program, which consumes up to 70 percent of the EU budget, by having national governments assume more of the burden. But France, which receives a heftier share of farm subsidies than any other member, spurns any reduction as politically un-Mr. Schroeder and Mr. Chirac took

See SUMMIT, Page 11



President Chirac and Chancellor Schroeder concluding a news conference Tuesday after the Potsdam summit.

Beijing Seizes 2 Prominent Dissidents

Detainees Had Been Attempting to Form an Opposition Political Party

By Elisabeth Rosenthal New York Times Service

White House aides said the move BEUING - Two of China's most reflected Republican disarray and a lack prominent dissidents have suddenly been arrested for criminal offenses, aptee denounced the vote as a "fishing parently in a crackdown on their recent efforts to form China's first opposition political party, human-rights group and latives of those taken into custody said

on allegations that Mr. Clinton committed perjury, obstructed justice and Over the past six months, the two dissidents — Xu Wenli of Beijing and abused his presidential powers to hide a sexual relationship with Monica Lew-Qin Yongmin from the southern city of Vuhan — had been involved in a small But the committee chairman, Henry loose nationwide network of political Hyde of Illinois, said the panel was activists who have become increasingly 'duty-bound" to explore any allegabold in their efforts to start what they call the China Democratic Party.

See PANEL, Page 3

have each spent more than a decade in titude, I think it was much more serious jail for pro-democracy views and are well accustomed to police surveillance, occasional house searches and trips to the public security bureau for question-

But relatives and human-rights groups agreed Tuesday that the arrests were extraordinary and far more om-

In Beijing, 20 officers from the Public Security Bureau burst into Mr. Xu's home at 9 P.M. Monday with a detention form. They arrested Mr. Xu and spent the next three hours searching his house, confiscating his computer, fax machine, telephone, address book, and various other documents.

"This is the third time this year they've come here but, from their at-

this time." said Mr. Xu's wife, He Xintong, "The other times they just took the fax. This time, there were more officers and they were in more military uniforms. And they searched much more closely than they did before - they even looked under the beds and in closets and they took phone receipts and

bank transaction forms. Miss He is still waiting to be notified of the crime of which Mr. Xu is ac-

In the case of Mr. Qin, his family told a human-rights group that security of-ficials notified them that he was being charged with "threatening state secu-'a grab bag of crimes that often

See CHINA, Page 4

Paris Joins London on A Push for Defense

By Joseph Fitchett International Herald Tribune

PARIS — London and Paris have agreed on a joint defense ini-tiative that would give the European Union a voice in military af-fairs for the first time, even as EU members' armed forces remained within NATO, French and British officials said Tuesday.

The objective is to launch a de-

fense policy that would strengthen Europe's image and ability to act in regional crises or other missions where Washington does not want to commit troops, while reinforcing the European role in NATO.

Essentially, the accord would involve dissolving the Western European Union, an independent defense body, and transferring its rudimentary military assets to the EU, the sources said This move, which would create

direct links between the EU and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization for the first time, marks the biggest step yet in the often frustrating efforts by Europeans to find ways to do more about their own defense. Although some details were still being refined, officials said, the outlines of a deal could emerge this week at a British-French summit meeting in St. Malo, France.

The shift would change little in practice in an era when U.S. clout via NATO seems indispensable to handling European crises. But simplifying the structures, a British official said. "removes a bone in our titutional throat" and gether European political ambitions and military power in a way that could spur stronger support for

"It's done," said an aide to President Jacques Chirac of France, who said the agreement on essentials was reached last week.

British officials said the initiative had come from London. For both countries, an official said in London, the bottom line is that "individually, our countries can only field marginal forces alone or with the Americans, but together we could put 30,000 men on the line and make ourselves noticed by any-

Even though France and Britain have often seemed at odds over how to balance their commitments to the United States with a potential role for Europe, they are the only two European nations that can field significant forces for combat anywhere. As a result, other European countries must follow any French-British lead on defense, just as they have followed French-German leadership on monetary policy.

Even Germany has no political alternative to acquiescing once London and Paris agree on future defense arrangements, especially in light of the view — held in Bonn as

See EUROPE, Page 11

Turning a Page, Digitally Electronic Books Begin to Find Their Place

By Ethan Bronner New York Times Service

NEW YORK - At Virginia Commonwealth University, sociology students use a textbook that exists only online. It sends them to related Web sites, has recorded lectures they can rewind and offers discussion areas that supplement and enliven their classroom discussions.

In Texas, the state Board of Education is planning a pilot program to distribute electronic books and laptop computers next fall to thousands of high school students.

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Some works of fiction now can be found on-line and downloaded for reading. And development is under way in Japan on a vending machine for the distribution of digital magazines, which could be downloaded on a cassette and read on a hand-held device. With futurologists having mistakenly

predicted the end of the printed page for several decades now, no one is preparing a eulogy for the traditional book. Television did not doom radio, video did not kill film, and electronic publishing will probably not end print.

But with two electronic book devices on the market, an exponential increase in reference and scholarly material available on-line, many experts say that the shift from page to screen, once a fantasy, is now approaching reality.

And there are those, like Jeff Rothen-

berg, a senior computer scientist at the Rand Corp. who say they can see the day when books printed on paper will be viewed "more as objets d'art than

things we use all the time." Valerie Raymond, an editor at Mc-Graw-Hill, said: "I am a book person and I never believed I would want to give up the books I carry around with me. But I'm starting to think of myself

See BOOKS, Page 11

AGENDA French Museum **Sued Over Looting**

PARIS (AP) - The heirs of a Jewish art collector whose claims for a Nazi-looted painting by Georges Braque were rejected have sued the Georges Pompidou Center in Paris on charges of receiving stolen property their lawyer said Tuesday.

The two are longtime dissidents who

The suit is believed to be the first of its kind in France. Antoine Comte, the lawyer representing the heirs of Alphonse Kann, charged that the Pompidou Center acquired "Le Joueur de Guitare"

(The Guitar Player) in 1981 knowing of its wartime past. In Washington, meanwhile, the United States opened an international conference on property looted by the Germans during World War II by saying that it was ending its inquiries into Swiss banks and Holocaust victims

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Single Currency Gets A Variety of Envoys

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In their search for a representative for the single currency at international meetings, finance ministers from the 11 countries adopting the euro next year agreed Tuesday to send the European Commission. But they also decided to send a minister from the country holding the revolving European Union presidency — or, if that country has not adopted the single currency, from the country next in line. Page 15.

Risk of Social Crisis Rising In Asia, UN Agency Finds

By Philip Segal

HONG KONG — While some upbeat forecasters are saying the Asian economic crisis has bottomed out, an agency of the United Nations said Tuesday that the region's social crisis was far from over and was likely to get worse.

The International Labor Office, the secretariat of the International Labor Organization, said in a report released here that the lack of unemployment benefits in the region had inflicted unnecessary suffering and hardship and called for fundamental changes to provide a social safety net.

"Just as the Depression in the 1930s forged a new social contract in industrialized countries," said Eddy Lee, the author of the report, "so must the current Asia crisis serve as an impetus to creating a more socially oriented model for development.

Economic stagnation or even economic growth of only I percent could lead to another round of violent protests because there is no social safety net to help cushion the effect of the kind of restructuring companies are bound to make in any recession, the agency said.
"Downsizing happens," said a

spokesman for the agency, John Doohan. "The question is how to make the transition feasible. How do you keep it from boiling over?"

In Indonesia, unemployment has tripled to 15 percent in just over a year, creating the kind of social pressure that has spilled into bloody rioting. Disagreements among Malaysia's leadership over the hard economic decisions facing the country led to the dismissal of the deputy prime minister, Anwar Ibrahim, and clashes between police and demonstrators in favor of Mr. Anwar, who is now being tried on a series of criminal charges that he says are politically motivated.

The agency contends that with minimal unemployment insurance for urban workers in large companies, financed by a payroli tax of about 1 percent, a lot of the social pressures in Asia might have been reduced to below the boiling

The report said that in countries as poor as or poorer than many in Asia, some form of unemployment insurance existed: Employees in Egypt are entitled to 16 to 28 weeks of benefits when they lose their jobs, depending on payroll con-

See ASIA, Page 4

A Media Baron at Home in the Big Leagues

By Steven Pearlstein Washington Post Service

ORONTO - It was well after midnight when the phone would ring. The reclusive father, well into his cups, would ask what books the son was reading or what his professors were saying. Then the old man would report on his latest investment gambit or deliver the latest gossip from Toronto's notoriously insular business community and, in particular, Argus Corp., from which he had been sent into an early and humiliating retirement.

Before long, the conversation would turn to history and talk of the great men: Caesar, Napoleon, Lincoln, Roosevelt, Churchill, de Gaulle, Father and son would refight the major battles and controversies, debating strategy and tactics. Then father might grill the boy on the monarchs of England or the tonnage of all the ships in the Queen's navy, just as

he had since the son was a boy.

Thirty years have now passed, and the father. George Montagu Black Jr., has long since died. But thanks in part to his nocturnal tutorials, the son has become the powerhouse the father had hoped he would. He has the erudite wit of William F. Buckley, the lifestyle of the Aga Khan and the deal-making prowess of Henry Kravis. He can also boast that all three are friends.

Surely what would be most pleasing of all to old George Black, however, is that his 54-year-old son now presides over a \$3 billion-a-year world publishing empire that is the direct descendant of Canada's preeminent industrial conglomerate, the old Argus Corp. Conrad Moffat Black is a corporate

wheeler-dealer, conservative intellec-tual and social-climbing egotist. Not since the financier Max Aitken trans-formed himself into Britain's Lord Beaverbrook has a Canadian achieved such an international profile. His publishing realm of 437 newspapers and magazines with a circulation of 6.6 million has grown to be the world's thirdlargest and is gaining on Washington-based Gannett Inc. and Rupert Murdoch's News Corp.

It was a biography of William Randolph Hearst that first sparked the young Black's fascination with newspapers — the writing of them and the business of publishing them, but most important the power and influence and notoriety they invest in their owners. He bought his first one

— a money-losing summer weekly with a circulation of 800 — when he was only 22. He
combined it with another, brought it out year-round and quickly sold it at a profit. Over the next 20 years. the process was repeated as he snatched up small. undistinguished papers across Canada and the United States and spun them into gold.

Mr. Black's first move into the media big league: did not come until 1985, however, with the purchase of a 14 percent interest in the Daily Telegraph, the biggest of London's quality dailies, which had suddenly found itself badly short of cash. In announcing Mr. Black's investment. A.M. Stephens, managing director of the Telegraph, declared con-fidently to his assembled colleagues that "Mr. Black has no known interest in the newspaper business and is an entirely passive investor.

Within six months, Mr. Black had absolute control

of the venerable London broadsheet. With breathtaking speed and not an ounce of sentimentality, he sent its aristocratic management packing, broke the back of the paper's unions, rejuvenated the news columns and built a state-of-the-art printing facility. Within four years, the Telegraph was throwing off \$100 million in profits each year. Mr. Black used the money to buy other papers around the world.
"Mr. Black landed history's largest fish with

history's smallest hook." an envious rival, the late newspaper publisher Robert Maxwell, once said.



Conrad Black with the financial section of his new National Post. He is intent on reshaping the daily newspaper business in Canada.

These days, Londoners know Mr. Black as a feisty proprietor locked in a fierce circulation war with Mr. Murdoch's Times. He has become the leading torch-bearer for Thatcherism and a behindthe-scenes player in the Tory party. At the same time, he and his wife, the proudly sultry conservative columnist Barbara Amiel, have become a fixture on the London social scene. The authoritative society magazine The Tatler recently calculated that they are the 11th-most-sought-after party guests, right behind their friends Prime Min-ister and Mrs. Tony Blair.

'N THE United States, Mr. Black's influence so far is largely confined to the scrappy Chicago Sun-Times, along with several hundred smalltown weeklies and dailies. After dropping out of the bidding for the New York Daily News in-1992, Mr. Black has made no secret of his desire to snare another big and influential American paper.

But it is in his native Canada that Mr. Black is known best. Torontonians remember him as the rich kid who was bounced from the country's most elite private school for selling copies of final exam questions he had purloined from the headmaster's office. His father urged leniency on account of the . entrepreneurial spirit he had shown.

As a bumptious young raider, he became renowned for running roughshod over executives, directors, government officials and unions who dared stand in his way. Through it all, he rarely missed an opportunity to challenge the mushy leftist consensus that defines Canadian politics and has found uncritical support in its major news outlets.

Now Mr. Black is poised to reshape that consensus. With recent acquisi-tions, his Hollinger Inc. now controls 61 of Canada's 105 dailies, accounting for more than 40 percent of daily news-paper readership. The country's leading magazines on business and culture are part of his empire. And last month, Mr. Black launched his own coast-to-coast daily that has become a must-read in business and political circles and claims to have already equaled the circulation of the other national daily, the venerable Globe and Mail.

OR MR. BLACK, who has committed the equivalent of \$100 million to the project, the launching of the National Post is the latest installment in a life scripted long ago and executed with ruthlessly un-Canadian determination.

In a country too often characterized by dull and comfortable mediocrity, Mr. Black looms as a flashy, larger-than-life figure who inspires equal measures of loathing, envy and respect. Where Canada is insecure, he is hyper-confident, even arrogant; where it is provincial, he is internationalist, where it eschews controversy and candor, he embraces them.

Mr. Black is a large man with an easy, fleshy smile and a charming manner that belies his bully-boy reputation. His con-versation tends to be rhetorically baroque and intellectually subtle, larded with obscure vocabulary and historical allusion.

"I'm very high on Conrad," said Richard Perle, a hawkish Pentagon official during the Reagan administration who now heads Hollinger's digital publishing division. "He's got a good practical sense, a scholar's scope and comprehension and not inconsiderable personal charms.

He has also got an unquenchable desire to collect the well known or influential. The list of Hollinger's directors and international advisers includes former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, former President Valery Giscard d'Estaing and even the broadcaster David Brinkley. Andy Warhol painted his picture and Princess Diana dined at

his table. He has become a faithful attendant at those annual confabs for the rich and powerful - Davos, Bilderberg and the meetings of the Trilateral Com-"He's an elitist in the best sense of that word,"

says Richard Burt, the former U.S. ambassador to Germany and a Hollinger director, part of a Washington network that also includes the Democratic power broker Robert Strauss and the columnist "I realize the allegation is about that I am some-

what of a seeker of celebrities and, in one sense, I Richard Siklos. "But my purpose is that celebrities who are justly celebrated can be very useful to you. I'm interested in relationships that can be useful. I'm not interested in just trotting these people around." Mr. Black thrives on lobbing rhetorical stink

bombs into the corridors of political correctness. A midlife convert to Catholicism, he once characterized the church's liberal wing as "trendy clerics mouthing socialist platitudes and depicting God as our pal jogging along beside us."

During the late 1980s he was forever chastising

the former liberal premier of Ontario, Bob Rae. for his "sodomization of the private sector." He once described Rene Levesque, father of the Quebec independence movement, as a "repulsive little gnome - greasy, twitchy and specious."

"No doubt a lot of people find him to be fright-fully pompous," Daniel Colson, chief executive of the Telegraph, told the Wall Street Journal. "I think he's just different. He likes to be controversial, and

U.S. Completes Inquiry Into Swiss Banks' Loot

By David E. Sanger . . .
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON - Opening a 44nation conference here to examine issues from repairiating stolen art, land and buildings to resolving billions of dollars in insurance claims on Holocaust victims, the Clinton administration has declared that its investigations into Swiss banks and Nazi gold are essentially closed.

The start of the three-day conference at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum on Monday night, which began with a silent procession of death-camp survivors, is intended to end diplomatic and legal strife with Switzerland and find ways to solve the problems surrounding the investigations.

This year Swiss banks reached a \$1.25 billion settlement with Holocaust survivors and Jewish groups. But new suits were filed against Italian and German insurance companies. Ford Motor Co. and the German banking giant Deutsche Bank, which formally an-nounced Monday its multibillion-dollar takeover of Bankers Trust It is unclear whether Deutsche Bank

will be under pressure to settle the suit as the merger wends its way through the regulatory process.

The historical disputes that period-

ically resurface surrounding Ford and the Opel division of General Motors Corp. - the use of slave labor by corporate subsidiaries that were nationalized by Nazi Germany — are not on the agenda of the conference. However, European officials say the new German government is quietly negotiating with German industry over some kind of compensation plan similar to the one negotiated with Swiss banks.

Our goal is to have a framework for settling all these issues by Dec. 31, 1999," Stuart Eizenstat, undersecretary of state for business affairs and the leader of the American investigations into World War II assets, said in an interview Monday. "We want to accomplish the maximum economic restitution possible after the passage of 50 years, but equally important the moral accountability that will help us enter the new millennium and learn the lessons of the greatest travesty of the 20th cen-

Investigators reported, however, that they had run into a blind alley in their major effort to determine how much gold the Nazis deposited in the "Melmer Account," the code name for the German Reichsbank account that held gold looted from the homes, pockets and dental work of Holocaust vic-

argues, was later smelted into "monetary gold" that had been stolen from central banks around Europe. The United States and Switzerland still differ on the amount of "victim gold" that ultimately flowed through Swiss ac-

"It is one of our biggest disappointments," Mr. Eizenstat said.

Although it was never determined how much personal gold was mingled with monetary gold. Britain and the United States persuaded more than a dozen other countries to give up their claims on six tons of monetary gold still sitting in the basement of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Now the proceeds from the sale of that gold will be used to support Holocaust-related programs, from education for schoolchildren to the care of destitute World War II survivors.

With the settlement with the Swiss banks completed in August, the schol-ars, art dealers, insurance executives, government officials, Jewish leaders and others at this week's conference are turning their attention to other assets looted by the Germans, especially insurance, real estate and art. An international commission is look-

ing into the complex insurance question and will most likely take years to determine what the insurers owe. Meanwhile, California, Florida and New York have threatened sanctions against insurance companies, mostly European, that do not fully cooperate.

Schools, community centers and other er real estate properties confiscated from Jews, many in Eastern Europe, are now being used on an everyday basis. and governments are reluctant to turn them over to their original owners.

The most prominent cases, however, involve art. Although many confiscated works were returned after the war, some were sold and others were incorporated into various European museums.

No one knows how many works are involved, or their value. Jonathan Petropolis, a historian at Loyola University in Baltimore, estimates in a paper to be delivered at the conference that 10,000 to 100,000 objects are still missing, even though a far larger number were returned shortly after the war, mainly by the Allied armies. "One of the things we hope to do with the conference is begin to crystallize that, Mr. Eizenstat said

In South Africa, Servants Get A Bill of Rights

Agence France-Presse JOHANNESBURG — The traditional relationship between South Africa's maids and "madams." a remnant of the country's white colonial past, entered a new era Tuesday as formal work con-

tracts became compulsory. "We have started to launch an information campaign" about the new contracts, "because most of the workers do not know anything about it." said Hester Stephens, spokesworman for the South African National Domestic Workers' Union.

The contracts formalize the working relationship for the first time and are compulsory in terms of the new Basic Conditions of Employment Act, which came into effect Tuesday after being from business.

The union estimates that South Africa has at least 2 million domestic workers. making the sector the largest employer in the country.

The prevalence of white "madarus" and their black maids is the focus of the hugely popular "Madam and Eve" comic strip, which mocks the still ex-

ploitative nature of the relationship. As in the cartoon, "many of these domestics live on their employer's premises and are expected to be on 244 hour call," a study by Johannesburg's respected Wits University has found.

In a near-revolution, the new contracts force employers to fix their dell mestic worker's weekly working hours? define their duties and provide for paid annual leave. Employers also have to be able to justify dismissing an employed and give 15 days' notice.

TRAVEL UPDATE

services for a sixth straight day Wednesday, but traffic should effort to reach a deal. be back to normal on most high-speed TGV trains. The state-owned SNCF railroad said that traffic Tuesday was running normally in only 7 of 23 regions as ticket

inspectors demanding extra staff refused to return to work. Drivers who went on strike Friday have gone back to work. On Wednesday, the high-speed Eurostar to London as well as the Thalys to Brussels, Amsterdam and Cologne are to run on schedule, while TGV services on the Atlantic network in the Southwest as well as the Paris-Grenoble line will be back to normal, the SNCF said. The Southeastern TGV network as

well as mainline trains to western, southwestern and central

Gasoline Shortages Hit Greek Cities

France will be disrupted, however.

ATHENS (Reuters) — A strike by customs employees caused fuel shortages in Athens and other major Greek cities Tuesday and further disrupted cross-border traffic between Greece and its nonhern neighbors.

Cars formed long lines at the few gasoline stations that still had fuel, but station owners said supplies would last another

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French Rail Services Still Irregular
PARIS (AFP) — Strikes are expected to disrupt French rail ministers were meeting the customs officers' union in an

Air Passenger Traffic Drops in Asia

GENEVA (AFP) - Airports in Asia and the Pacific suffered a 5 percent fall in passenger traffic in August, the only region worldwide to post such a decline that month, an industry group said Tuesday.

About 40.67 million passengers passed through Asia/Pacific

airports in August. 5.1 percent less than in the corresponding 1997 period, the Airports Council International said. Growth in passenger traffic was strongest in Latin America and the Caribbean, where it rose 9 percent to 10.87 million, Europe saw a 6.4 percent rise in air passenger traffic to 89.8 million, North America a 0.8 percent increase to 117.4 million, and the Middle East a 3.6 percent rise to 6.23 million

EgyptAir will postpone the start of regular flights to the Gaza Strip at the request of Palestinian aviation officials. The airline said Tuesday that the Palestinian authorities had asked for the delay because of technical problems at the new airport: EgyptAir it did not spell out the problems, however. Service had been due to begin Dec. 11. (AFP)

Nigeria will close its land borders from midday Friday to 6 P.M. Saturday while the country votes in local elections, the Interior Ministry announced Tuesday. The borders with Benin. Niger. Chad and Cameroon will be shut "to prevent foreigners from infiltrating into the country to vote." a ministry spokesman said.

Austrian Airlines will ban smoking on all flights within Europe and to North America starting Jan. 1, with all its flights becoming smoke-free by March 28. (Renters)

Correction

A Reuters dispatch carried in Tuesday's editions incorrectly identified Mohammed Erian. He is an analyst at Sa-

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THE AMERICAS

Separatists Keep Power In Quebec

But the Bouchard Forces Fail to Win Big Mandate

> By Anthony DePalma New York Times Service

QUEBEC - Premier Lucien Bouchard and the separatist Parti Quebecois have retained control of Canada's largest province, possibly setting the stage for a bitter confrontation with the rest of Canada, and possibly snother referendem on independence.

The Parti Quebecois won 75 of the 125 seats in Monday's vote to earn a new term of up to five years.

But the anti-separatist Quebec Liberal Party, though winning only 48 seats, received 44 percent of the popular vote, compared with 43 percent for the Parti Quebecois and 12 percent for a

third parry, Democratic Action.

Mr. Bouchard had more difficulty than expected in defeating the provin-cial Liberal Party leader, Jean Charest, on whom many people in English Canada had pinned their hopes for an end to the French-speaking province's

30 years of threats to separate.

The separatists fell short of the 46 percent they had said they needed to succeed in a third referendum to take Quebec out of Canada and form an independent nation of 7 million people. The separatists have lost two pre-Dus referendums, one decisively in

1980, the other narrowly in 1995. Mr. Charest sounded more buoyant in his remarks to supporters than Mr. Bouchard did in his victory speech.

"The result tonight reflects the fact that the people of Quebec, like the people of all Canada, want this country of ours to work and be a success," said Mr. Charest, who will serve as opposition leader in the provincial legislature.

The split decision stemmed from the geographical distribution of political

support in Quebec.
Mr. Bouchard's support is strongest among French-speaking voters, who are more evenly spread throughout the province than English speakers, who are concentrated in and around Montreal and who traditionally vote for the Liberals by huge margins and against sep-aration. It was the third-party candidate, Mario Dumont, who drew votes from the separatists.

Mr. Bouchard told voters during the campaign that he would hold another referendum in the four to five years of is government if winning couditions" existed. While he never defined those conditions, it was widely believed that one of them was a level of popular

pport above 46 percent. Voters sided with Mr. Bouchard even though the support for separation has declined. Recent polls indicate that only 43 percent of Quebeckers would vote "yes" in another referendum on inde-

pendence, a drop of 4 percentage points during the course of the campaign. "For the past few weeks, I have had the feeling that were it not for the issue of sovereignty, a greater number of Eng-lish-speaking Quebeckers would have supported our program," Mr. Bouchard said in a restrained victory speech be-

fore supporters in Quebec.
He mentioned sovereignty only once peating his pledge to create the "win-ing conditions" under which a referendum could be won. But he also acknowledged that the lower-than-expected level of support for his party reflected a dissatisfaction among voters

that he could not ignore.

"I respect the signal you sent by choosing candidates who reflect their attachment to Canada," he said. "We have decided to stay the course no matter what political decisions the people of Quebec make for themselves.

What appeared to be taking place, analysts said, is that Quebeckers see this election as a vote on government, not on independence, so separatist emotions are in check. But voters want Mr. Bouchard to keep alive the possibility of another referendum on separation as a way of increasing the province's leverage with Ottawa in upcoming discussions about changes in the shape of Canadian federalism.



Jean Charest, the Liberal Party leader in Quebec, meeting reporters after his party gave the separatists more trouble than they had expected.

When the Elderly See No Way Out

Undiagnosed Depression Is Fueling a Rise in Homicide-Suicides

By Susan Levine and Annie Gowen

Bushington Post Service WASHINGTON - After 58 years of marriage, George and Elnor White died together sometime between cocktails

The friends who arrived the next morning, who waited outside a moment until they realized the front door was unlocked, found the two bourbon glasses George had filled. In the kitchen they discovered the skillet with the meat namies Elnor had been cooking. The stove was off. The television was on. The bodies were in the garage.

Both of the Whites died Nov. 16 of single gunshots to the head. Police in Baltimore County, Maryland, determined that Elnor was killed by her husband with his army-issue handgun from World War II, which he then turned on himself. Their children believe — and fervently hope — that she had no warning that Monday evening, no instant of terror before their father pulled the trigger.

Their grief is laced with a bitter regret. Despite her severe osteoporosis and other health problems, their mother,

they say, still had living to do.

But in homicide-suicides involving older couples, depression is often as much the killer as any bullet. With cruel speed, it transformed George Wendell White Jr. from one of Maryland's most recognitive and trial language in the speed six language. respected trial lawyers into a despairing, paranoid man, a man certain that the future held only penury and pain for himself and his wife. No balance sheet, no doctor, no loved one could convince

There was no way out for my dad. said one of his daughters. Wendy Gib-

احكذامن الذحل

Statistics and headlines suggest that such tragedies are on the rise in the

A University of South Florida pro-tessor, Donna Cohen, is one of the few researchers tracking the rate of such violence, which she calls "stunning." She disputes the frequent supposition that husbands and wives make a pact. each unwilling in their love to go on without the other. Almost always, it is the man, despondent over poor health or a looming separation, or perhaps exhausted by the demands of caring for an ill spouse, who decides that only one solution remains.

In Florida, where retirees make up about 20 percent of the population, an elderly homicide-suicide is reported on average at least once a month. Guns provide the means in nearly three-quarters of the cases. Nearly as often, Miss Cohen said, evidence indicates that the wives do not want to be killed.

'These are not crimes of love. These are crimes of desperation and depression," Miss Cohen said. They devastate families and communities alike, and she fears that in a rapidly aging society -one that tends to ignore or write off signs of mental illness among seniors - their incidence will increase. "It's what appears to be a growing - and I say it quietly — epidemic.

This scenario may have been foreshadowed for more than a decade. Hornicide-suicide is a grim subset of suicide, and since 1980, reversing a 40-year decline, more and more of America's

oldest citizens have been killing them-selves. Those 65 and over now have the highest suicide rate. White men 85 years and over are at greatest risk, with an annual rate of 68.2 deaths per 100,000

The elderly are more intent on their plans than younger people," said Jane Pearson, who leads the Suicide Research Consortium at the National Institute of Mental Health. "That's what makes it so lethal."

Chronic or serious illness is the most common cause of depression in older people, and depression is the deadly undercurrent in the vast majority of suicides and homicide-suicides. Yet studies show that the deceased rarely were under psychiatric care or taking an antidepressant, in tact, their problems are seldom even diagnosed.

According to Miss Cohen, primarycare physicians miss 80 percent of cases of depression in elderly patients. Either the doctors spend too little time with them to plumb the depth of any melancholy, she said, or like many people. young and old alike, they believe depression is an inevitable consequence of

"I never dreamed he would take my mother," said Cindy White, younger daughter of George and Elnor.

'My mother," her older sister added firmly, "was not ready to die."

The newspaper obituary notice for White Jr., George and Elnor" included mention of four grandsons, as well as "Bootsie, their beloved cat." It asked that contributions be sent to a new fund at Johns Hopkins, the George and Elnor White Fund for Depression Research.

POLITICAL NOTES

Relief and Anger Over Ickes

WASHINGTON - Until Monday, Attorney General Janet Reno had seemed to be edging closer toward seeking an independent prosecutor to investigate the statements of Harold Ickes, a former top presidential aide. about his efforts on behalf of the Teamsters union.

But wavering on the final day of an inquiry limited by statute to 90 days, Ms. Reno invoked a provision of the independent prosecutor law that allows her a onetime 60-day extension.

That decision brought expressions of relief from White House aides, who reasoned that any decision not explicitly adverse to Mr. Ickes was favorable. At issue is whether Mr. Ickes, a former White

House deputy chief of staff, lied on Sept. 22, 1997, in a deposition to the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee. The committee complained in its final report this year that Mr. Ickes had misled its investigators about his actions on behalf of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

Republicans who have attacked Ms. Reno over her repeated refusal to seek independent counsels in campaign finance cases kept up their criticism.

It should not take her half a year to figure out the obvious," said Representative Dan Burton, Republican of Indiana, chairman of the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee and one of the president's fiercest critics.

Of the options open to Ms. Reno, an extension had seemed the least likely. In a legal brief filed with the

wanted more time. But the panel placed that filing

Unhappy Birthday to You

WASHINGTON - Mike Espy, a former congressman and agriculture secretary once thought to be a rising political star, spent his 45th birthday in a federal courthouse hearing himself denounced by prosecutors as a corrupt official and praised by deense lawyers as a dedicated public servant.

In closing arguments before the case went to the jury on Monday, Donald Smaltz, an independent counsel, sought to portray Mr. Espy as thoroughly insensitive to ethics laws and regulations, someone who accepted gifts from companies and lobbyists who had business before the Department of Agriculture. Mr. Espy led the department in President Bill Clinton's first term until he was forced to resign in 1994.

(NYT)

Quote/Unquote

General Charles Krulak, the commandant of the Marine Corps, on whether having a commander in chief who has admitted misleading the nation has had a corrosive effect on military discipline: "That is not to say we in the corps are naive enough to think people aren't talking about this. Let me tell you, they talk about everything. I mean it's no different than any other place. The question is, Do they act on what they panel of appellate court judges that supervises in-dependent counsel matters, she explained why she order and discipline? I don't see that." (NYT)

PANEL: Republicans Widen Clinton Inquiry

Continued from Page 1

tions of impeachable offenses by Mr. Clinton. "We are not participating in a wild goose

however, to vote next week on whether to agreed-on spending limits in 1996, and they recommend articles of impeachment against Mr. Clinton. A vote of the full House is likely the following week. Mr. Hyde said that he planned to stick to that schedule.

Mr. Lockhart, speaking from the White House, said that with the expansion of the inquiry, "Republicans in the House have finally come clean about what they're up to." into allegations raised by the independent coun-

sel Kenneth Starr, he said, had been unmasked with ads for their own candidacies, thereby as "a partisan process designed to damage the president and go after and investigate the president on any subject that they see fit."

exceeding spending limits they had agreed to when they accepted taxpayer assistance. The auditors said that 37 Democratic National ident on any subject that they see fit."

Bella, a Justice Department former senior clearly identified President Clinton and "approsecutor, to make closed-door depositions peared to contain electioneering messages. later this week. Both men have urged Atment of an independent counsel to examine documents or evidence related to John Huang, the 1996 election campaign.

The committee also subpoenaed Ms. Reno to produce unexpurgated copies of memorandums Mr. Freeh and Mr. La Bella sent Ms. Reno. She had provided a redacted, or edited, version of the La Bella memorandum, which includes grand-jury information, to members of a separate House committee that concluded its inquiry of campaign finance abuses earlier.

It appeared that lawyers for the Republican majority would first have to persuade a U.S. memorandum. She rejected a similar request Friday, saying the committee did not demonstrate a need for the document.

Representative Bill McCollum of Florida, a Judiciary Committee member, told CNN on Tuesday that "over-the-transom" sources had alerted the committee "that the unredacted memo shows that the president com-mitted criminal acts." He did not say what

those acts might be. But The New York Times quoted several Freeh and La Bella memorandums did not provide evidence of impeachable offenses.

In a development that may cast light on the allegations against Mr. Clinton, auditors of the Federal Election Commission said Tues-The committee remained on track, day that Mr. Clinton had illegally exceeded recommended that he repay \$7 million in taxpayer assistance. They also recommended that his Republican challenger, Bob Dole, repay \$2.9 million for a similar violation of election laws, and \$14.8 million for other misuse of funds.

The six-member commission can accept after or reject the recommended figures. The The ostensibly "narrowly focused" inquiry auditors said that both candidates had illegally coordinated advertisements run by their parties The committee voted, 20 to 15, to subpoena Committee ads, paid for with funds that cannot the FBI director, Louis Freeh, and Charles La be used to promote an individual candidate,

Republicans on the committee also approved tomey General Janet Reno to seek appoint- a subpoena requiring Mr. Starr to furnish any Mr. Clinton's fund-raising practices during a key figure in the campaign finance scandal who was granted immunity by Mr. Starr.

Democrats on the committee protested the expansion of the inquiry, saying they had learned of Republicans' intentions only late Monday. Representative Charles Schumer, Democrat of New York, called on the incoming speaker of the House, Representative Bob Livingston, "to step in and take control of this runaway train before we go over a cliff." Meantime, the sharply divided committee heard from witnesses Tuesday who had been

District Court judge, Norma Holloway Johnson, to authorize Ms. Reno to provide the relationships. One of them, Barbara Battalino, was a Veterans Affairs psychologist who is serving a home detention sentence after pleading guilty this year in a case in which she lied out a sexual relationship with a patient.

"Because a president is not a king," she told the committee, "he or she must abide by the same laws as the rest of us. The White House called the hearing a

'stunt," and Democrats on the committee said it was a staged melodrama intended not to determine the facts or illuminate points of law law-enforcement officials as insisting that the but to marshal more votes for impeachment.

Cuba to Make Christmas Permanent

Party Calls for Restoration of the Holiday, Abolished in 1970

HAVANA — Christmas in Cuba

is back for good.
The ruling Communist Party used the entire front page of Cuba's only daily newspaper, Gramma, to recom-mend that "from this year on," Dec.

25 should be a holiday in Cuba, formally re-establishing a custom that had been abolished in 1970. The proposal is sure to be adopted. The government granted a Christmas holiday last year as a one-time favor to Pope John Paul II, who visited in January. But at the time it balked at

declaring the measure permanent.

The Cuban Roman Catholic Church, which has enjoyed better relations with the state since the Pope's visit, welcomed the announcement on Tuesday.

"I think this is a positive step that corresponds to the population's religious sentiment and a tradition that existed for a long time in Cuba," said Orlando Marquez, a church

At the time the holiday was abolished, the government contended that it interfered with the mobilization of manpower for the sugar cane harvest. The government then was avowedly atheist, and Christians were barred from being members of the Communist Party or of holding many sensitive jobs. Christmas trees were strongly discouraged. Many Cubans, however, continued to cel-

ebrate Christmas in their homes. The party's policy-making Polit-buro asserted Tuesday that the government of Fidel Castro had never

been anti-religious, although it said that Cuba's 'enemies' had exploited religious sentiments for counterrevolutionary purposes.

But the Politburo acknowledged in the proposal in Granma that the exclusion of believers from party ranks after Mr. Castro took power in 1959 had been discriminatory. In recent years, the government has declared itself secular, dropped restrictions on Christians and moved to improve ties with Cuban churches and other religions.

The Politburo said the decision had been made bearing in mind "the unity of our people" and despite the accompanying "sacrifice of dozens of millions of pesos in salaries. goods and services not produced" on Dec. 25.

Away From Politics

• The Clinton administration has told hospitals that they must examine and stabilize patients without any delays to ask about insurance coverage. Under the new policy, hospitals must provide emergency care to all patients who need it and may not delay services while they seek approval from a health intenance organization or other insurer.

The payload bay doors of the space shuttle Endeavour swung shut as ground crews prepared the spacecraft for a mission to start building the \$60 billion International Space Station. The shuttle's crew is to link the U.S.-built Unity module carried by Endeavour to an unmanned Russian-built component already in orbit. The launching is expected before dawn on Thursday.

• A federal judge in Chicago threw out a lawsuit brought against several major drug makers and wholesalers by thou-sands of U.S. retail pharmacies that had alleged a vast con-spiracy to fix U.S. prescription drug prices, the companies

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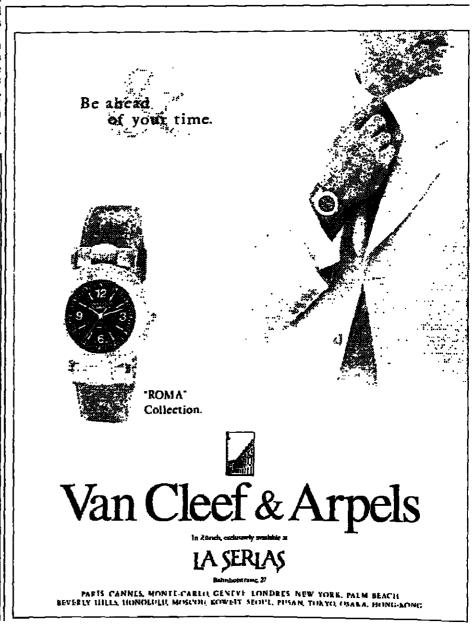
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THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER



ASIA/PACIFIC

Timing of China's Move on Spratlys Raises Asian Suspicions

By Michael Richardson International Herald Tribune

SINGAPORE - Despite its assurances of peaceful intent toward Southeast Asia. China is enforcing its claim on much of the South China Sea at a time when its smaller neighbors are being forced to cut back military spending.

This is raising suspicions, according to officials and analysts, that Beijing is taking advantage of an Asian financial crisis that has forced slower growth in military muscle and spawned less co-hesion among rival Southeast Asian claimants to islands in the same waters.

The focus of regional concern centers on Mischief Reef, a part of the disputed Spratly Islands in the South China Sea that has again brought the Philippines nd China to the point of confrontation. "after an appropriate time" and a lec-In a forceful reaffirmation of its rights ture about not poaching in waters and China to the point of confrontation.

BEIJING - China marked World

AIDS Day on Tuesday by unveiling an

ambitious program to curb the spread of HIV amid dire predictions the country

could suffer a devastating epidemic if

sexually transmitted diseases, the of-

alarm bell for AIDS control in China,

even though the majority of current HTV

carriers were infected by sharing con-

The plan attributed China's AIDS

crisis to a rise in intravenous drug use

and prostitution among rural youth and migrant workers, many of whom lack

On Monday, a senior Beijing-based

'If no action is taken, if there is not

the WHO technical officer. Alan the epidemic.

tioned of a drastic rise in the number of

active education, there could be 10 mil-

lion HIV cases by the year 2010," said

In early November, the Ministry of Health said the country had 11,170 con-

The virus was spreading quickly in

China's eastern and southern

boomtowns, with Guangdong province

recording 100 new HIV cases in 1998,

said. Beijing has posted a three-fold in-

crease in infections from the previous

confirmed HIV carriers leapt more than

In eastern Shanghai, the number of

Health officials said the actual num-

ber of HIV patients in China could be as

high as 300,000 because only blood

firmed HIV cases. Of those infected, 338 had developed full-blown AIDS and 184

World Health Organization official cau- aging safe-sex practices.

even basic knowledge of HIV.

It said the rapid growth of sexually transmitted diseases "had sounded an

ficial Xinhua press agency said.

The program aims to limit the spread

nothing is done.

taminated needles.

had already died.

China Favors Education

of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, in 10 and 60-70 percent believe a mosquito years through improved education about bite would infect them with the virus."

In Fight Against AIDS

in the area, China on Tuesday demanded the immediate release of 20 Chinese fishermen detained on Sunday by the Philippine Navy near the reef, which both Beijing and Manila claim as part of

their territory. "We call on the Philippines to im-mediately release the fishermen and take effective measures to prevent such incidents

from happening again,"
the Foreign Ministry ANALYSIS spokesman, Tang Guoqiang, said in Beijing. "We are seriously concerned about this."

Describing the arrests as "illegal," he also urged Manila to release the six impounded Chinese fishing vessels.
A senior Philippine official said Tuesday that the fishermen would be released

lion by 2000 if effective action was not

"Ordinary people are short of knowledge about AIDS," said Wu Zunyou, an AIDS expert at the Chinese Academy of

'Half of them believe shaking hands

Asian Nations Sound the Alert

Government officials and health ad-

vocates in Asia marked World AIDS

Day with calls for urgent efforts to stop

the spread of the disease, The Associated

In Japan, the Health Ministry organ-

In Hong Kong, bars, restaurants and

In India, which with 3 to 5 million

HIV-infected people has been among

the hardest-hit nations, hundreds of

school children marched beside pros-

titutes in the capital to draw attention to

ized rallies and charity concerts in a

central Tokyo square to publicize the threat of AIDS and demonstrate support

with those suffering from the disease.

nightclubs handed out coasters encour-

or eating together could transmit HIV

Preventive Medicine.

tary. Ronaldo Zamora, said that similar incidents were bound to recur and that he expected the navy to continue arresting intruding tishermen.

The Spratlys are claimed wholly or in part by China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei. All the claimants, except Brunei, maintain armed garrisons on the islands they occupy. The area, a valuable fishing ground, contains extensive reserves of oil and natural gas. On a visit to Singapore on Friday,

China's defense minister, Chi Haotian, said that Beijing wanted to settle all territorial and maritime disputes in the South China Sea peacefully.

He added, however, that the Soratly Islands, which the Chinese call the Nansha Islands, had been China's territory lands and the seas around them."

A Western intelligence official said that as with China's policy toward Taiwan, Beijing has refused to forswear the Asia while China, which has been less use of force to resolve territorial claims in the South China Sea.

"In fact, China's own territorial law charges the armed forces with enforcing territorial claims in the South China Sea," he said.

The official added that the fact that major sea lanes pass near the Spratly Islands made the potential for conflict there a matter of strategic significance and concern to the United States.

China continues to pursue maritime dominance at the same time that improvements in the naval forces of ASEAN have been severely retarded by the financial crisis," the official said,

claimed by the Philippines. But the official, the presidential executive secreindisputable sovereignty over the is
referring to the regional grouping of the Association of South East Asian Na-

The Philippines has one of the weakest navies and air forces in Southeast harmed by the financial turmoil and economic slowdown in East Asia than its neighbors, is continuing its military modernization program.

Tension between China and the Philppines flared anew last month over Mischief Reef when Manila accused Beijing of sending armed naval ships to the area to build what it said were permanent structures for possible military use. It produced detailed photographs to support its case.

"There is a frantic, massive construc-tion going on," said the Philippine de-fense secretary, Orlando Mercado. "They're putting up barracks. There are cement structures that are a precursor of possible piers. Later on, they will have the capability to berth some of their

higgest ships."
He asserted that the Chinese intent was to "reiterate their claim that the entire South China Sea is a Chinese

Mischief Reef is only 185 nautical miles west of the Philippines. It is many times that distance from Haman Island. the most southerly undisputed Chinese territory in the South China Sea.

Beijing rejected Manila's protest and refused to remove the facilities, saying they were fishermen shelters that had been damaged by storms and needed

China built the first of the structures on the reef in 1995, prompting outrage in the Philippines and a confrontation between Chinese and Philippine naval ves-sels that stopped just short of an ex-

change of fire.
"Neither China nor-the Philippines want to see conflict crupt in the area," said Ralph Cossa, executive director of the Pacific Forum CSIS think tank in Honolulu. "But unilateral military construction activity is one of a wide range of precipitating actions that could lead the region into a conflict no one de-

He said that military ships from opposing sides patrolling in disputed areas could easily get into an exchange of gunfire, which could further escalate into naval engagements.

Some nations may find it difficult to back down gracefully from such standoffs in claimed sovereign territory," Mr.



A volunteer handing out leaflets on ATDS in Beijing on Tuesday.

itary government, which refused to accept the result. (Retirer) Warning by Bhutto ISLAMABAD, Pakistan

EU Plans Talks

With North Korea

BRUSSELS - Officials of the

Enropean Union and North Korea

will hold their first talks here Wed-

nesday on issues ranging from his

man rights to food aid to security on

rea has agreed to debate a broad agenda of issues," an EU spokes-man said Tuesday, adding that the

EU wanted to see whether Euro-

peans could have a regular political dialogue with North Korea.

EU representatives will include officials from Austria, Britain and

Germany and the director-general

The spokesman would not spec-

ulate on why North Korea had agreed to talks and could not give a list of

Burma Bars Visas

For U.K. Officials

LONDON - Burma will refrise

visas to British ministers and gov-eroment officials who want to visit

the country, Britain's Foreign Of-fice said Tuesday. The officials said the ban did not apply to other Euro-

pean Union countries.
Foreign Office officials said they

regarded the move, which was to take effect immediately, as an acknowledgment of Britain's leading role in

pushing Burma to improve human

rights and start talking with oppo-sition leaders such as Daw Anne San Sun Kyi. Her party, the National League for Democracy, won the last

free elections, in 1990, and she has since faced harassment by the ma-

North Korean participants.

of the European Commission's for-eign affairs office, Percy Wester-

We are quite pleased North Ko-

the Korean Peninsula.

land of Sweden.

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan
Former Prime Minister Benaza
Bhutto wafned Tuesday that Pakistan
was moving toward a judicial system
like neighboring a fehanistan's.

In a letter to international humanrights groups as well as several heads
of state, Miss Patento said Prime
Minister Naway Sharif's government was intent on imposing a
Taleban-like system of justice on
Pakistan: Miss Bhutto has been a
vocal opponent of Mr. Sharif's efforts to pass a constitutional amendment to bring Islamic rule to thent to bring islamic rule to Pakistan. The lower house of Parliament already has approved the

Hun Sen Sets Goal

PHNOM PENH - Prime Minister Hun Sen said Tuesday that Cambodia wanted peaceful settlements to border disputes and that the country's admission to the Associarion of Southeast Asian Nations would facilitate solutions.

Mr. Hun Sen was sworn in as prime minister Monday after the National Assembly passed a vote of confidence in him and his new co-alition government. (Reuers)

40 Hurt as Monks Fight at Seoul Temple

injured, some seriously, as rival leadership struggles. fected to 402, provincial health officials night Tuesday for control of a temple in central Seoul.

Most of the injured were mainstream monks who tried to regain control of Chogye Temple's administrative building, which has been held by dissident 30 percent to 183 this year, official tal- monks for three weeks.

The police said one Buddhist man was hospitalized with serious head injuries suffered during the clashes, which began Monday afternoon and continued until donors along with high-risk groups such as prostitutes and drug addicts had been tested.

early Tuesday morning.

The temple, headquarters of the largest Buddhist order in South Korea,

empty bottles and wielded clubs. The appoint 1,700 monks to various duties. Chogye order has often been engulfed in The latest confrontation occurred as SEOUL - Nearly 40 people were Chogye order has often been engulfed in

> by the head of the order, Song Wol Ju, to seek a third four-year term. Opponents seized his office early this month. effectively blocking his re-election.

A rule stating that the order's chief monk cannot serve more than two terms was enacted in 1994 in an attempt to prevent the office from wielding too much power. Mr. Song has said the rule could not be applied in his case, because his first term, in the early 1980s, was interrupted by a dispute with the thenmilitary government.

The head of the order controls an The ministry also predicted that the was turned into a bartleground by hun- annual budget of \$9.2 million, millions number of HIV cases would top 1 mil- dreds of gray-robed monks as they threw of dollars in property and has the right to million people.

about 2,000 monks from across the country attempted to regain control of the

temple and its administrative building. About 800 monks holed up inside the building repelled the attack by spraying fire extinguishers and hoses and hurling rocks and furniture.

After the invading monks withdrew at dawn Tuesday, the temple grounds were strewn with broken bottles, sticks. burned furniture and garbage.

About 1,200 riot police stood by but did not intervene. Past police interventions in religious disputes have embarrassed the force.

With 8 million followers, Buddhism is the largest religion in this nation of 44



A wounded monk escaping the Chogye Temple fray early Tuesday.

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CHINA: Beijing Arrests 2 Who Seek to Form an Opposition Party

Continued from Page 1

carry sentences of three to 10 years, but that can be longer if the criminal is considered a leader in serious anti-government activity.

Three other Democratic Party members were also arrested Monday, according to the Information Center for Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China.

Although the fledgling China Democratic Party was not specifically mentioned in any of the arrests it was clearly the ultimate target.

All of the men have been involved in repeated unsuccessful efforts to register the Party with Chinese authorities in

ransacked Mr. Xu's home, "when they found things related to the China Democratic Party, the went through them very carefully and then took them away."

Chinese leaders have not commented directly on the party. But just last week, Li Peng, the head of the National People's Congress, pointedly told the business magazine Handelsblatt that groups which seek a multiparty system and try to

negate the leadership of the Communist Party, will not be allowed to exist."

The China Democratic Party has been a persistent source of irritation and anxiety for the Chinese leaders over the past six months, a buzzing mosquito whose bite is probably harmless, but which is rarely silent and never seems to go away. Composed of dissidents from more

than a dozen Chinese cities, its members have had almost weekly run-ins with the government in one city or another as they have tried time and time again to gain some official recognition for their party, mostly by trying to register it with local officials; party members have also tried to run in village elections. Its has been a small but remarkably coordinated effort in a country that normally takes great Miss He said that when the police pains to isolate its political dissidents.

Of course, none of the Democratic Party's efforts to gain recognition have been successful, and many have resulted in brief detentions by local policemen and warnings that the party is illegal. But party members like Mr. Xu and Mr. Qin have been unwilling to take "no" for an answer, and when they hit one dead end they back up and head out in another

in distant cities. In late October, Mr. Xu theatrically announced that he was planning to set off on a drive from Beijing to eastern Shandong Province to show support for a party member there whose wife had been dismissed from her job and whose phone and electricity had been turned off by local authorities On Nov. 8, long after they had been warned by authorities that their pursuits

Some are undertaking hunger strikes to protest the detention of party members.

were pointless and illegal, 53 Democratic Party members — including Mr. Xu and Mr. Qin — jointly applied to Care's central State Council for permissions to work on forming a new party, said the Information Center of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China, a Hong Kong Human Rights group.

The party, whose by-laws support democratic ideals from elected officials

to free speech, maintains that the Chinese Constitution does not specifically forbid alternate political parties. Its organizers and that since China signed the International Covenant on Political and Human Rights this fall, the government should let the activists be their say, as respectful opponents.

ASIA: UN Agency Sees Social Effects of Economic Crisis Worsening

Continued from Page 1

tributions. Workers in Tunisia, Algeria and Brazil — all poorer per-capita than Malaysia - have access to some form of unemployment insurance.

Even in some of Asia's richest economies, proposed wage cuts have threatened to cause major social or economic dislocations. With Hong Kong's economy shrinking by 7 percent a year and unemployment at a 15-year high of 3 percent, 12,000 workers at Hong Kong Telecom in September threatened industrial action after management announced a 10 percent pay cut.

When the government of Hong Kong the amount of consultation with workers over pav levels.

outright dismissals. Mr. Lee said, 'you ried out peacefully in Asia. Singapore traditional safety nets."

ticipation, without consultation."

ing to get worse before it gets benter. In many countries, the reduction in

insolvent banks and companies have barely begun. Countries such as Thailand and Indonesia are struggling with begins to resolve itself. new bankruptcy laws and with court systems that are used to dealing with commercial matters in years or decades, instead of months.

"Without unemployment insurance," appeared to back the workers, management proposed a series of performance-based bonuses for all staff and increased "This mrns it into an economic death place of income insurance that the series of performance insurance that the series of performance insurance that the series of place of income insurance that the series of performance insurance that the series of performance is series of performance insurance that the series of performance is sentence."

can't do that in a vacuum without par- last month announced a multibilliondollar cost-cutting package that would In Asia, "even if most of the countries reduce the average resident's income by return to slight positive growth by the end of 1999, the social crisis will still continue," he added. "It's probably go-

Mr. Lee's report rejects the idea that, because unemployment insurance proexcess capacity and the liquidation of grams would take 18 months or more to set up, there is not much point in establishing them as the economic crisis

As Asian nations move toward higher value-added manufacturing and become more service-oriented, labor costs rise, and industry will find greater as

to have flexible labor forces, he wrote.
As to the argument that Asia stream answered that the large rise in ver pay levels.

There have been examples of wage ployment should sweet and reductions and major restructuring carlingering illusions about he ariemacy of ingering illusions about he ariemacy of

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In France, Even for the Jobless, 'Tis the Season to Be Striking

By Craig R. Whitney
New York Times Service

PARIS - French train conductors say they're lonely, so they've been on strike since Thursday, disrupting long-distance rail service in many parts of the

journalists say French paychecks don't buy as much as they used to, so they went on strike Tuesday - not against their newspapers and television and radio stations but against an often-postponed government plan to do away with a special tax deduction of up to 50,000 francs (\$8,850) that they have enjoyed since 1934.

The long-term unemployed, who closed state job offices last Christmas and went on strike for higher benefits. occupied an unemployment office Monday where last year's movement

In response, Italy has sought and won

support from the European Union. Italian leaders say they cannot extradite Mr.

Ocalan for trial in Turkey because their constitution forbids sending criminal suspects to countries where they could

Emotions were running so high last

week that the European soccer feder-

ation granted an appeal by the Italian champion, Juventus, to postpone its planned match last Wednesday against

the Turkish champion, Galatasaray.

Turkish newspapers reacted with out-raged headlines like "Postponement

Tempers have cooled somewhat in

the intervening days, but not enough for

some Juventus players. Several of them,

including a star of this year's World Cup

competition, Zinedine Zidane, have

said that they fear what awaits the team

in Istanbul and that they wish the match

In response, Galatasaray's two Ro-

manian-born players issued a public

statement: "Don't be afraid. Come,

Zidane. We are your guarantee." De-

spite these assurances, Juventus decided

not to arrive in Istanbul for a day of

practice before the match, as is cus-

COMO de moveo to a neutral country

Scandal!" and "Juventus Is Scared!"

face execution.

one they got last year.

The French have been taking to the streets since the Revolution more than 200 years ago, usually to demand something from the state - not surprisingly. since government spending amounts to about 56 percent of gross domestic product in France, compared to about 41 percent in the United States.

The end of the year, when the days become short, cold and gray, brings a spate of labor disputes and visions of paralyzing national shutdowns like the three-week public transportation strike in 1995 that sealed the political fate of a conservative government that tried to reduce pension benefits.

The latest strike on the state-owned railroad system isn't anywhere near that big, but the 11,000 conductors have kept

ted the postponement last week. Ju-ventus had plenty of purely soccer rea-sons to be worried about meeting

Galatasaray, Reuters reported. Juventus

goes into the clash after a disappointing

spell in which it has drawn four consecutive Champions League games and

needs a victory in Istanbul to keep alive

its hopes of reaching the European Cup

Istanbul's major newspapers pub-

"Always remember that the

lished appeals to fans in their Tuesday

slightest incident will bring thunder from around the world," one paper

Another published an Italian-language banner headline on its front page

A third said in an editorial: "The world

is watching Turkey because of the match

being played tomorrow evening. Let us

embarrass all of those who expect trou-

Turkish police plan a mobilization they

call "zero-risk security" that exceeds

even that given to visiting heads of state.

Police commanders said 14,000 officers

and cadets would be deployed in and

around the stadium.

To protect against incidents, the

and maturity of the Turkish people."

that said simply: "Benvenuto Ju-

quarterfinals.

began, in Marseille, demanding a up steady pressure to try to force the next year, as some have already been christmas bonus of 3,000 francs like the network to hire more of them.

A union conductor in Bordeaux. Sauveur Ventura, told Agence France-Presse that it was sometimes a lonely job with lots of responsibilities but nobody to talk to except passengers.

'In addition, we're also attacked by customers who complain about fares being raised." Mr. Ventura com-

(Agence France-Presse itself was largely shut Tuesday because of the journalists' strike.)
The 182,000 railroad workers run

some of the world's fastest, cleanest and sleekest trains, and these days they work, indirectly, for a Communist, the minister of transport. Jean-Claude Gayssot, under a Socialist government that promises to reduce the working week for all of them to 35 hours starting

But the train conductors are also striking to make sure the enterprise ne-gotiates work-week reductions serious-

Louis Gallois, the technocrat and former aerospace executive in charge of the railroad, said last week that his employees accounted for 20 to 30 percent of all working days lost to strikes in

"It's the way the enterprise resolves its internal conflicts," he complained. "Everybody lives off strikes: the hierarchy, the administration, the staff and the labor unions."

Even though fewer than 10 percent of all workers in France belong to labor unions, opinion polls show that the French people as often as not sym-

That may not be true of journalists, whose profession is one of 73 that enjoyed special tax breaks that a conservative government decided three years ago to try to abolish.

Journalists, including foreign correspondents based in France, are allowed to reduce their taxable income by 30 percent (but by no more than 50,000 francs) for nonitemizable professional

Print and broadcasting employees unions called for a demonstration Tuesday afternoon in front of Parliament to get it to think again about the latest plans for a cut.

But, since many newspapers won't appear Wednesday morning and French all-news radio was broadcasting only music on Tuesday, some people will never quite know why the strike took

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France and U.S. To Explore Mars

PARIS - France and the United States have signed an agreement to send a joint space mission to Mars in 2005, designed to bring back to Earth the first samples of the planet's surface.

France will contribute 2.5 billion francs (\$440 million) to the cost of the project, said Claude Allegre, minister for education, research and technology in France.

The European Ariane-5 rocket will launch the Mars mission. If the mission is successful, it will be the first time samples from another planet have been brought

Brussels Sees EU Free of Rabies

BRUSSELS - The European Commission had good news Treaday for pet lovers planning to move to Britain or Ireland: Rabies will soon disappear from the EU, which may prod both countries to end their tough per quarantine laws.
"It can be confidently predicted

rables will be eliminated from the EU within the not too distant for ture," the commission said.

The commission granted \$3.5 million to a campaign to eradicate rabies altogether and contribute to dismantling quarantine for pets arriving in Britain and Ireland: +

Newcomers there must currently board their pets for six months in

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Kosovo Tension **Over Police Site**

MALISEVO, Serbia - President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia has refused to order Serbian police to abandon a key position in Kosovo that is frightening hundreds of ethnic Albanians from returning home, diplomats

The police presence appears to breach the cease-fire deal brokered in mid-October by the U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke. (Reuters)

Habsburg Targeted

VIENNA — Austrian politicians on Tuesday called on Karl Habs-burg, grandson of the last Austro-Hungarian emperor, to resign from the European Parliament over charges that he funneled charitable donations into his election cam-

The grandson, who represents the conservative People's Party in



ROMANIANS' DAY — Troops at National Day festivities Tuesday marehing past the marble palace in Bucharest erected by Nicolae Ceausescu. It was the biggest military parade since he was overthrown in 1989.

Switzerland and EU Reach Alpine Truck Deal

BRUSSELS - Switzerland said on Tuesday it had reached a deal with the European Union on Alpine transport, lifting the main obstacle to a longsought trade and cooperation pact with

haulers must cross the Alps to take their to the EU. goods to northern Europe, had challenged every aspect of the Swiss proposals, but that the "cornerstones" had remained intact.

Under the deal, still to be passed by EU foreign ministers, Switzerland on the levy was the thing that made the

agrees to phase out by 2005 its ban on EU transit trucks of over 28 tons, instead levying tolls based on levels of environmental damage they cause.

The pact also clears the way for EU transport ministers to agree later on an and a safeguard clause allowing the environment-based truck charging sysger of Switzerland said Italy, whose Lautenberg, Switzerland's ambassador rose to intolerable levels.

pose its maximum levy on transit trucks, averaging 200 Ecus, before the completion of a new Alpine rail tunnel in 2006 or 2007. "I think the compromise

difference," a Swiss diplomat said. In return, Bern won the right to keep its post-transition regime as it originally proposed, with tolls averaging 200 Ecus, a ban on trucks traveling at night

As well as road and air transport, the Switzerland also agreed not to im- planned trade and cooperation pact, which Switzerland and the EU have been negotiating since 1995, covers agriculture, research, public procurement, mutual recognition of standards and free

Europe, denies any wrongdoing. (Reuters)

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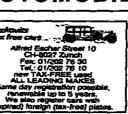
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EDITORIALS/OPINION

Russia and the IMF

Russian officials desperate for more dollars from the IMF have settled on two rather odd tactics. One is to insult the Fund, which - according to Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov - employs "young kids who've seen almost nothing in life" and who, "without knowing our situation, start to dictate or recommend some kind of development plans." In addition, Russia has taken to threatening the Fund — with all the terrible things that Russia will do to itself if more loans are not forthcoming. Foremost among these selfinflicted wounds, Mr. Primakov warns, will be printing more rubles to make up the shortfall, a strategy likely

to result in hyperinflation. Presumably, IMF officials will not make decisions based on personal pique. They certainly understand that Mr. Primakov, with his insults, is playing to a domestic audience. But the damage he does is not primarily to IMF egos. His blaming of outsiders is corrosive domestically because it forestalls Russian understanding of what Russians must do to solve their economic problems. Putting a gun to his own head isn't any more effective; it

simply further erodes international confidence in his government.

It makes no sense for the IMF to lend large sums to the Russian government if that government has no sensible plan to restore the nation's economic health. The money will be frittered away, as past loans have been, and future generations of Russians will be that much more in debt. Russia needs to collect more taxes. It needs to adopt a realistic budget. It needs a host of reforms that neither the IMF nor any other outsider can impose.

This does not mean that the Fund, the United States or other friends of Russia should just cut the country loose. There are kinds of assistance that continue to make sense, even as the government flounders. These include programs championed by Senator Richard Lugar and former Senator Sam Nunn to safeguard and reduce Russia's nuclear arsenal; programs aimed at deepening Russian democracy; and assistance to independent media, environmental groups and other nongovernmental organizations trying to enrich civic life.

- THE WASHINGTON POST.

Palestinian Corruption

President Bill Clinton's call on Monday for a new multibillion-dollar international aid package for the Paiestinians is a necessary complement to the peace agreement that he helped put together in Maryland this fail. That diplomatic deal remains wobbly. It can be reinforced by showing that peace delivers tangible economic and social gains to ordinary Palestinians. But outside financial assistance will be effective only if the Palestinians can curtail corrupt practices in administering the aid.

The additional \$400 million in American aid that Mr. Clinton endorsed can also be a means of dissuading Yasser Arafat from following through on his threats to proclaim an independent Palestinian state when the original timetable of the Oslo peace agreement expires next May.

About \$2 billion in international aid has been provided to the Palestinians since 1993, Most has gone into specific projects, supervised and monitored by the donor nations. The \$500 million already provided by Washington has been used to produce better water access for Palestinian towns, loans for local businesses and financing for Palestinian elections. Mr. Clinton now

wants Congress to supply additional money for the industrial zones, airport

Through careful supervision, Washington and other donor nations can minimize the improper diversion of this assistance. But corruption poses a potentially serious problem in other areas. For example, the Palestinian Authority needs outside funding for community social welfare projects to keep up with those now offered by organizations like Hamas. But such money, much of it flowing through the hands of Palestinian political appointees, is especially vulnerable to

Palestinian Authority.

Mr. Arafat has not addressed the problem. That cannot be the end of the issue. Palestinian legislators and aidgiving nations must insist that he crack down on corruption. The Palestinian Authority will forfeit both domestic legitimacy and world respect unless it deals firmly with those who steal money meant to improve the lot of the

THE NEW YORK TIMES.

The Chinese, Too, Have Much to Apologize For

L ONDON — Jiang Zemin pulled every traditional Chinese stop during his tour of Japan that ended on Monday. He made a point of referring to history as the "mirror" in which the present learns from the past. That fig-ure of speech was used more than 2,000 years ago by the Han dynasty historian Sima Qian, who chose castration rather than silence when he persevered in telling the truth about disasters.

No one can object to President Jiang's insistence that the Japanese face up to the atrocities that their troops committed in China before and during World War II, and stop evading the facts in their historical education of the young. And how right he was to say:
"I, as a witness of history, have the responsibility to convey the historical

facts to the younger generation."

Most interesting of all was his visit to the Japanese university where, like many young Chinese near the beginning of this century, Lu Xun, who would become a great essayist, sought understanding of how an Asian country could modernize. One of Lu Xun's most famous essays contains the phrase "eat people" as a metaphor for the constant cruelty of Chinese society.

This metaphor could be applied to essary to maintain national stability.

By Jonathan Mirsky

most of the Communist period. But in Japan Mr. Jiang ignored Clio, the Greek muse of history, and neglected her mother, Mnemosyne, goddess of memory. So do many of China's foreign apologists. I cannot count the number of times I have been urged to 'stop harping on the past' when I refer to what has happened to Chinese citizens during the last 50 years.

I have been told the same thing by Chinese officials and by Hong Kong's Japan must confront its past.

The word "incident" is used by the Japanese to describe the Nanjing mas-sacre of 1937, when the Imperial Army killed 300,000 Chinese, and by Beijing about the Tiananmen killings of 1989. when hundreds if not thousands of Chinese were killed by their own army. In both cases "incident" is used to deny and diminish.

Mr. Jiang goes somewhat further, as he did when President Bill Clinton was in Beijing earlier this year, by claiming that the Tiananmen killings were nec-

the greatest catastrophe in the Communist period, there has been no written apology to the millions of victims. Nor is there a museum commemorating the disaster, as Ba Jin, China's greatest modern novelist, has suggested there should be. In one Chinese county, Red

Guards literally ate their enemies. There was an earlier period when "eat people" became a vast reality: the famine of 1959-1961 after Mao's crazed Great Leap Forward. Between 30 and 50 million people starved to death (37 years later this number remains impossible to fix); the living ate the dead. This farnine is rarely officially discussed, and never apologized for.

Nor are there apologies to the 400,000 victims, dead and alive, of the anti-rightist movement of 1957-1958. including Prime Minister Zhu Rongji. Deng Xiaoping, who oversaw it as general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, maintained years later that it had been necessary.

Nor has anyone in a position of au-

thority apologized for the thousands or tens of thousands murdered during the

land reform of the early 1950s. Naturally, no one apologizes for the

When it comes to the Cultural Revolution, described officially in China as curity organs every year in numbers which Amnesty International estimates are greater than those executed in the rest of the world combined.

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2.2

In 1980, Hu Yaobang, then the party general secretary, did an extraordinary thing while in Lhasa: He apologized for the sufferings that Tibetans had en-dured under Chinese rule. This was held against him and was part of the reason. he was removed from office in 1987.

Mr. Hu's unique honesty on many matters explains why students poured into Tiananmen Square immediately after his death on April 15, 1989, and why the staff of the People's Daily, the party's newspaper, marched into the square bearing a wide banner saying "No More Lies."

President Jiang is right to harry the. Japanese about their war guilt. But, like all Marxist rulers, he imagines that Cho can be invited here, repelled there. He forgets that Mnemosyne is not so easy to rebuff - 13 billion Chinese, 13 billion memories.

The writer is a former East Asia editor for The Times of London. He contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

and seaport agreed to in Maryland.

misuse by corrupt officials.

An internal Palestinian audit last summer found instances of serious fraud and mismanagement within the

Palestinian people.

From an Ethiopian Valley, Good News After the Bad By Mulugeta Abebe

WASHINGTON — For many, "Ethiopia" remains synonymous with "famine." People remember television images of starving children at feeding centers in the mid-1980s. In the past three decades perhaps 2 million Ethiopians have died in periodic famines.

But nearly 60 million of us are still living in a country that has favorable farming conditions and an ancient history of agricultural innovation. Our challenge is to reverse harmful practices of the past century.

A major culprit is the decline of forests, which covered 40 percent of Ethiopia a century ago. Today the figure is less than 4 percent. Deforestation has turned much fertile crop and pasture land into dust bowls. Such were conditions in 1983-1984, when failed harvests triggered the great famine.

But deforestation can be prevented and reversed, as demonstrated by a World Vision project involving 50,000 people on 600 square kilometers in the

Ansokia Valley.

Like much of Ethiopia, the

50-kilometer-long valley was on a food-for-work basis. Hill-

thick with vegetation and animal life two generations ago. But a growing population needed trees for cooking, heat, fences and homes, Meanwhile, farmers cleared land for crops. Relief workers arriving in

1984 described the valley as a moonscape. "The land was smoking, dust was everywhere, and there was no life in sight, said one farmer. Like tens of thousands of others, he moved his family to a feeding center. Along with food, medicine

and dollars. Western relief workers and their Ethiopian counterparts from Addis Ababa brought development expertise - as well as their own preconceived notions about farming - as they planned ways to overcome hunger permanently.

Ansokia lacked roads and

bridges. Public works projects began as part of relief efforts. To increase the tree cover, a large-scale nursery was started. Labor was provided by healthier adults in the feeding centers

sides were terraced to create new farmland and reclaim old. Dams and other water projects

aided irrigation. The principle behind agroforestry is as old as the earth. Trees provide shade, fuel, wood, livestock feed and construction material. Leguminous trees fix nitrogen in the soil. Deep-rooted plants bring nutrients to the surface, rejuvenating the soil for crops and pastures surrounding the trees. Trees and cover crops prevent soil erosion and absorb standing water that breeds malaria-carrying mosquitoes.

Fruit and nuts from trees add nutrients to the diet not found in grain or meat. Having another source of food, and often income from surpluses, makes families less vulnerable when grain crops fail or animals die.

In the first years, flaws emerged. Farmers did not feel ownership of the project, since the nursery belonged to World Vision. Starving cattle grazed on seedlings. Farmers con-

exotic and uneconomical, preferring fast-growing eucalyptus, fruit-bearing papaya and

nitrogen-fixing trees.

Discouraged by years of drought, and humiliated because they could not feed their children, they also felt incompetent when outsiders imposed new ideas; their knowledge and time-honored systems had been pushed aside.

Working with farmers and government officials, development workers revised the program. Satellite nurseries sprang up, tended by local farmers who felt a greater sense of ownership. Guards were hired to keep cattle away from the main nursery. Tree varieties favored by local residents were grown.

A dozen years later, the area not only produces enough for its residents but also exports food to other regions. Nearly 10 million trees have been planted.

Farmers like Zeleke Shawel, 44, who received food aid during the famine, acquired a plot

sidered tree species like pine something would come out of exotic and uneconomical, pre-Today he has thousands of trees. The coffee and most of the fixed trees are cash crops. So are the eucalyptus, which can be used for lumber, fuel and fodder.

The project has increased the standard of living throughout the area. A food deficit of nearly 2,500 tons in 1990 became a surplus of 6,352 tons in 1996. The land is covered with forests

at twice the national average. This success holds hope for other deforested areas. Applying lessons learned here, World Vision is supporting a similar effort at a second Ansokia site. Together, the two projects reach only one-third of the valley. The program could be expanded, using development aid and private investment.

The United Nations still rates Ethiopia near the bottom of the world table in human development. But the reforestation of Ansokia gives one hope.

The writer, director of Worl that had a history of flooding and Vision Ethiopia, contributed erosion. "Ireally did not believe 'this to the Los Angeles Times. Vision Ethiopia, contributed

Chiapas Syndrome

The world press snapped up the Zapatista rebel movement when its leaders wearing black ski masks surfaced in Mexico's remote and desperate Chiapas province and, thinking big, demanded the removal of an elected president and the surrender of an undefeated army. Five years later, although the president and the army remain on the scene, "Chiapas" has come to mean not simply a particular insurrection but also a condition of disorder mocking the country's capacity to govern. Chiapas is in Mexico, but the disorder it exemplifies is found in many parts of the world and gives many others reason to keep a nervous eye on how things are unfolding at the scene of the real thing.

The insurgents have been able to sustain a local physical presence, and an international media presence, but have done little to improve life for their constituencies among the poor and indigenous. This suggests the tenacity of the popular grievances on which the movement feeds.

It suggests as well the difficulties of the Mexican government. The government portrays Chiapas as a political conflict with some violence. The comandantes portray it as a continuing class war with some dialogue. For the government, the purpose of the dialogue is to gain the time and space to advance its reforms. But the guerrillas repudiate the official mediators and use the fitful dialogue to string the

authorities along.
The Zapatista leadership is devoted to a primitive Marxism at odds with what the rest of the world has learned about change in the 20th century. The alienation of the 35 percent Mayan Indian population in Chiapas is centuries old. But President Érnesto Zedillo, struggling to modernize, is forced to rely on the same corrupt

ruling party, the PRL blamed for paramilitary outbursts like the one that left 45 indigenous dead, and no one punished, at Acteal a year ago.

Many Mexicans, although they may not agree on a prescription in Chiapas the place, understand that "Chiapas" the anarchic condition compels urgent engagement. The Zedillo government, which says that in Mexico political and social change cannot be achieved by force of arms, needs to listen to its own advice.

— THE WASHINGTON POST.

Other Comment What Change in Iran?

Whatever Tehran's diplomats might say, among the Iranian elite there is near-unanimous agreement that the edict against Salman Rushdie is a permanent sentence, one which both constitutes government policy and at the same time is beyond the competence of government to affect.

The brand of Islam practiced in Iran distinguishes between two types of religious pronouncements, a fatwa and a hukm. The former remains valid only during the lifetime of the religious authority who issues it; the latter continues in effect beyond his death. Despite the Western habit of referring to the edict against Mr. Rushdie as a

fatwa, Iranian spokesmen have uni-versally regarded it as a hukm. Iran's missiles and weapons of mass destruction are the equivalents of lurking assassins. Swooning over President Khatami's improved tone will no more protect us from those threats than Mr. Rushdie is likely to be protected by his giddy insistence that Ayatollah Khomeini's edict is no more.

— Daniel Pipes, writing in Commentary (New York).

The Y2K Problem? Just a Technical Glitch to Repair By James K. Glassman

WASHINGTON — The year 2000 problem, or Y2K, is a glitch that makes computers confused about the correct date. It has also led to unwarranted hysteria. This apocalyptic reaction, spread with gusto on radio talk shows and the Internet, combines strains that have been running through American life for the past few centuries: paranoia, end-of-the-world religios-

ity, hatred of technology and fear of the future. To save space, many computer programs were written to express dates with two digits; thus, "98" for 1998. The computers will think that the year 2000 is 1900, with all sons of weird and dire results predicted.

Banks emptying customers' accounts to collect debts that computers think are 100 years past due, airplanes falling from the sky, heart pacemakers failing in thousands of chests, missiles being launched by renegade software, millions of elevators getting stuck between floors, welfare checks being delayed for months, etc. No wonder gullible folks are scared.

Hucksters and ignoramuses are ginning up pandemonium. Check out the web site at www.Y2KSupply.com, which issues daily e-mail alerts and sells a book that helps you buy "firearms and ammo" and gold and silver at a discount. The site

advises stockpiling food and water and emptying your bank account now! On Jan. 1, 2000, gun shops and grocery stores

will be looted, and "the president will declare martial law." Even respectable economists are going bonkers. Edward Yardeni of Deutsche Bank Securities sees the Y2K problem causing a recession that will cut U.S. GDP by 5 percent over two years and send stocks down by 30 percent.

Certainly, the two-digit date glitch will cause trouble. "I have no question that we're going to have unusual things occurring," Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve chairman, told a congres-

sional committee in September. But predictions of gandy disasters are vastly overblown. The truth is, no one can be

absolutely sure what damage the millennium bug will cause. But it is important to separate loony ideas about the world coming to an end from true technological concerns. For example, it is a good rule in economics (as well as life in general) that something you know about in advance is unlikely to hurt you very much - especially if you can fix it.

'Correcting the year field is technically simple," wrote Richard M. Nunno in a recent Congressional Research Service report. The hard part is finding all the places in the software where dates are critical. and figuring out how to coordinate with other computers.

That is being done. Most businesses got a late start, but they appear well on their way to "compliance." A consulting firm that surveyed companies worldwide found that Y2K ranked No. 20 on a list of corporate priorities in 1996, but No. 1 in 1997. U.S. businesses alone will spend \$300 billion to \$600 billion getting their systems ready. No wonder. A company that is not compliant will lose out to a competitor that is An extensive study by Mer-

rill Lynch & Co., published in June, looked at thousands of companies worldwide and rated

their level of compliance. The results are encouraging. For example, all 29 Latin American banks that were surveyed "will be compliant."

Lacking the spur of compention, federal and state govern-ment agencies are behind the private sector, but they are hustling. The Social Security Administration, for example, is in great shape, but a survey by the General Accounting Office found that only 6 percent of state Medicaid systems were compliant, raising the specter of delays in benefit payments.

'A bomb shelter mentality is

not called for," said a recent report by GartnerGroup, the high-tech consulting firm Preparing for the millenneum should be more like preparing for a storm that will last less than a week.

Unlike Mr. Yardeni, 33 economists surveyed by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia predicted an average increase of 0.1 percent in GDP as a result of spending to fix the Y2K med-lem. Many businesses are re-ating their computer systems as tirely, a step they probably

should have taken long ago. The Y2K glitch is not likely to be a blessing, but don't let apocalyptic nuts convince you that it is such a curse that you need to sell your stocks, withdraw your cash, buy guns and stock up on water. Just cool it.

The Washington Post.

1898: Frail Empire

PARIS - The "Times" leader on the Emperor Francis Joseph's jubilee, says: "A state of things exists which hardly anybody else could hope to conduct to a safe issue. The discontent of the Austrian Germans, the separatist claims of the Czechs and Croats. and the cross divisions due to clerical propagandism have complicated the situation. It is a subject of grave concern that if the Emperor were removed from the scene there is no member of his family who could take his place with anything like the same influence and authority."

1923: U.S. Isolation

State Hughes devoted a long ad-dress to an inquiry as to the place of that doctrine in the scheme of the foreign policies of the

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO United States as a world Power. in the 20th Century." He prodicted that, "with respect to the region of the Pacific Ocean and the Far East, to Europe and to its hemisphere." America will continue her policy of isolation. The Monroe Doctrine remains the essential policy to be applied. To weaken it would support no worthy cause, but would invite trouble by removing the one es-tablished safeguard for the peace

1948: Indian Rights

NEW DELHI — The India Constituent Assembly adopt

Herald Eribune

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Starr's Agents Wanted Perjury

BOSTON — At 1 P.M. on Friday, Jan. 16, Monica Lewinsky arrived at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Pentagon City to meet Linda Tripp. What happened then is well known, but its crucial significance is not.

Ms. Lewinsky was contronted by FBI agents and Kenneth Starr's assistant prosecutors. She immediately told them, she testified later, that "I wasn't speaking to them without my attorney. Her attorney was Francis Carter. When she was sub-

poenaed by Paula Jones's lawyers, she told him she had not had "sexual relations" with Bill Clinton. Mr. Carter prepared, and she signed, an affidavit to that effect. Mr. Starr's agents did ev-

erything they could, short of physical force, to keep Ms. Lewinsky from calling Mr. Carter. They told her he was a civil rather than a criminal lawyer "so he really couldn't help me. (That was a lie. Mr. Carrer is a highly regarded criminal lawyer who for six years headed Washington's public defender service.) They told her she had signed

a false affidavit and could go

to prison for 27 years. They

offered to give her immunity if

she would "cooperate," but

said there would be no deal if

Mr. Carter were called in. !A

federal regulation forbids im-

munity negotiations in the ab-

sence of a suspect's lawyer.)

Why were Mr. Start's depu-

By Anthony Lewis

ties so anxious that she not telephone Mr. Carter? On that Friday afternoon, Mr. Carter had not yet filed Ms. Lewinsky's affidavit. Until it was filed, it could be changed.

Mr. Starr knew about the

affidavit from Linda Tripp's last taped conversation with Ms. Lewinsky, and knew from Paula Jones's lawyers that it might not yet have been filed. That is why his deputies worked so hard to keep Ms. Lewinsky from calling Mr. Carter. If he knew what was happening, they realized, he would not file it. And they wanted a crime. They wanted perjury to be committed: by Ms. Lewinsky so that they would have leverage over her, and by the president when he was deposed

in the Jones case the next day. If Ms. Lewinsky had called that afternoon, Mr. Carter told me, the affidavit "would not have been sent." But there was no call. At the end of the business day it was sent to the court in Little Rock. Mr. Carter had shown the

affidavit to the Jones lawyers and to Robert Bennett, Mr. Clinton's lawyer. If he had not filed it, he said, "I would have told them." So Mr. Bennett would have known of Mr. Starr's interest in Monica Lewinsky. The president's deposition on Saturday would have taken another course or been canceled. And the history

of the last 10 months would have been very different.

(Did the president or Ms. Lewinsky commit perjury when they swore that they had not had "sexual relations"? Perjury requires, among other things, proof of deliberate falsehood. In a conversation with Linda Tripp unrelated to any threat of prosecution, Ms. Lewinsky had said emphatically that "having sex" meant "having intercourse" – not orai sex.)

The right to a lawyer is fundamental in the U.S. system. A person accused of crime, the Supreme Court said in the Scottsboro case in 1932, "requires the guiding hand of counsel at every step." Without it, the innocent person may be overborne by what she does not understand. Police officers occasionally

break the rules. It is another matter when prosecutors, who are officers of the court, overbear a young woman to keep her from calling her lawyer. The Star deputies who were there on Jan. 16 - Michael Emmick, Jackie Bennett Jr. and Bruce Udolf -- should surely face questions by the appropriate legal authorities on their fitness to practice law. And Mr.

Start condoned what they did. None of this excuses the president's moral folly. But it makes powerfully clear that Mr. Starr is a far more serious menace to the constitutional order than Mr. Clinton is.

The New York Tunes.

PHILADELPHIA - With the hundredth anniversary of the Monroe Doctrine, Secretary of

of the American continents.

a provision in the draft constitution conferring equality of opportunity and public employ-ment on all Indians regardless of religion, race, casté, sex of descent. This followed yesterday's [Nov. 30] Assembly measure to penalize the practice of untouchability. Every fifth Hindu is an untouchable.

A Clear Line Divides Good **And Bad Government**

By William F. Weld

political pie today.

crats. They don't get it. This is the Dick Gephardt, unions all-the-way crowd, which has yet to absorb the lessons of the last 20 years regarding the size and movement of goods and people across borders and the fatal weaknesses of bureaucracy.

Then there are the Bill Clinton-Al Gore-Bob Kerrey-Bill Bradley Democrats, who by and large do ter it, though they would do well to move to the right on tax cuts, tout reform and school choice.

Next there are the George W. Bush-Lamar Alexander-George Pataki Republicans, who also by and large do get it, though some of them should move to the left on abortion rights and affirmative action. Finally there are the Gary

Bauer Republicans of the far right, who really don't get it. So, what is "it"? "It" is the recognition that government is good when it does

other things.
Government is good when it restrains citizens from killing or injuring each other. That is why we Americans need to be ugh-minded about criminal

some things and bad when it does

Government is bad when it tells people it understands more fully than they what is good for them.

justice and not give ourselves ment, while both Bill and Hillar over to generalized weeping about Clinton have long embraced it.

19th century democratic reformer Pierre-Joseph Proudhon was wrong when he said property was theft, it is the U.S. federal budget

that is institutionalized theft. Government is good when it safeguards our livelihoods from predatory business practices. Weneed antitrust laws; Economic Man will take the whole pie for

BOSTON — There are four Government is bad when it tries main slices in the American to micromanage anything. Nato micromanage anything. Na-tionalized health care, wage and The first is the liberal Demo- price controls, and teachers' and school custodians' collective bargaming contracts come to mind.

Government is good when it helps citizens pursue happiness in God's great green earth. Individureach of government, the free als and businesses simply will not protect the environment for our descendants; we need vigorous government enforcement and conservation measures. Backers of socalled property rights should think of this as a proper government response to a market failure.

 Government is bad when it tries to manage people's sex lives.
Government should stay out
of your pocketbook and out of

your bedroom. Government is good when it redresses wrongs. Slavery was wrong. Second-class citizenship for women was wrong. Second-class educational and employment opportunity for members of racial minorities was and is wrong. Affirmative action is

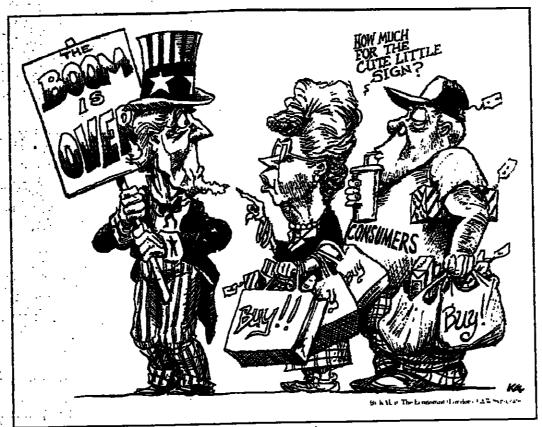
abundantly justified. Government is bad when it obstructs the free flow of ideas, material goods, services or people. Censorship, tariffs and unduly restrictive immigration policies all

injure society. Government is good when it appeals to the better angels of our nature, when it contributes to a sense of community, both at home and abroad.

It is best for government to guide with a light touch here, to be evocative as opposed to prescriptive. This is a point that divides official Washington: Many congressional Republicans seem to have intentionally forsworn this power of government, while both Bill and Hillary

Finally, government is bad when Government is bad when it its representatives tell people, "We takes more than 30 percent of a understand more fully than you taxpayer's income in taxes. The what's good for you." This is a common failing of the Democratic left, in hock to unions and trial lawyers, and of the so-called Republican cultural right, in thrall to homophobia and xenophobia.

> Mr. Weld, a Republican, was governor of Massachusetts from 1991 to 1997. He contributed this



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Close the Nuclear Club

Regarding "Sanctions Won't Curb Proliferation" (Opinion, Nov. 28) by Joseph S. Nye Jr.:

Mr. Nye makes a common recommendation that is sometimes taken to be innovative: "The United States should offer India and Pakistan advice on the command and control of nuclear weapons, including technical assistance on permissive action links that prevent unauthorized use if they fall into terrorists' hands.'

This advice is misguided, since the technical assistance suggested is unnecessary and would undercut the international consensus that India and Pakistan should not be rewarded for their nuclear tests.

Sharing command and control technology also sends a message to other states interested in nuclear weapons: The United States will try to stop them from "going nuclear." but once they have crossed the Rubicon it will accept them as nuclear weapon states and supply them with technology.
This goes against Mr. Nye's

own recommendation and the exstates party to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which have made it clear that, as far as they are himself every time, if you let him. comment to The New York Times. concerned, the nuclear weapon to confuse scientists, thereby

club is not open to new members. ERIC H. ARNETT Solna, Sweden.

The writer is leader of the Project on Military Technology at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

Korea's Land Mines

With the Pentagon's recognition that North Korea's ability to overrun the South is disintegrating ("Pyongyang Losing Edge to Invade, U.S. Asserts," Nov. 28). the United States' justification for rejecting the international treaty banning anti-personnel land - the defense of South has crumbled.

ARTHUR H. WESTING. Pumey, Vermont.

Animal-Free Medicine

Regarding "Placental Blood: A Simpler Transplant Than Bone Marrow" (Nov. 27):

This article provides a classic lesson in medical history. It serves to illustrate that major medical pressed consensus of the other breakthroughs occur despite, and not because of, experimentation on laboratory animals.

Animal experiments continue

delaying medical advances. The highly publicized baboon bone marrow transplant given to an AIDS patient, Jeff Getty, in 1995, was deemed unsuccessful.

Were it not for our fixation with laboratory animals, the idea of using the umbilical cords and placentas of newborn infants to save patients with leukemia, lymphoma and similar blood cancers might have occurred a lot sooner to the benefit of mankind and without wasting animal lives. ANDRE MENACHE

The writer is president of Doctors and Lawyers for Responsible

It's Not Life and Death

Maureen Dowd just doesn't get it ("Don't Blame the Press for a Joh It Had to Do." Nov. 19). The "fickle electorate" to which she refers seems to have a better understanding of the situation, and can therefore make the distinction between "sex and lies" and "life and death." It is precisely because the Clinton scandal is about the former, and not the latter, that U.S. voters said, "Enough."

ROBERT SCHEIBER. Maisons-Alfort, France.

An Absurd Race Secret That Saps Self-Esteem

By Jill Nelson

teacher's use of a book called 'Nappy Hair' in her third-grade classroom says more about many African-Americans' enduring discomfort with some of the physical features of blackness than about the book or the teacher.

اعكذا من الذعل

In using the book, Ruth Sherman, a 27-year-old teacher at Brooklyn's Public School 75, stumbled onto a volatile race secret and uncovered a strain of self-harred in African-American

MEANWHILE

culture that in this instance made

education an explosive issue. Written in a gospel-type calland-response style, "Nappy Hair" is a cheerful story of a young girl with the "kinkiest, the nappiest, the fuzziest, the most screwed up, squeezed up, knotted up, tangled up, twisted up, nappiest hair ...
you've ever seen in your life."

Apparently the teacher thought the text would build self-esteem among black and Latino students.

But many of her students' parents thought differently and complained to her superiors. Ms. Sherman was removed from her classroom and temporarily transferred to a desk job; she says some parents have threatened her life.

While Ms. Sherman understood her students' need for positive self-images, it is clear she had no inkling that sometimes barriers to that self-esteem are perpetuated not by the white community but by the black one. Since blacks rarely use the word "nappy" around whites, it is not clear if Ms. Sherman knew that in the black community it is not simply a description of hair texture, but is

often used as an insult. Thankfully, this attitude is not monolithic The author of "Nappy Hair," Carolivia Herron, an assistant professor of English at California State University at Chico and an African-American. intended the book to be a celebration of a little girl's indorn-

itably unruly hair and spirit. The story is based on childhood tales that an uncle made up about Ms. Herron, the proud owner of a head full of nappy hair. The author said she was saddened but not

NEW YORK — The uproar culture in which most women are fixated on hair, and it is generally held that long, straight hair is the most desirable. If you buy into those criteria, most women of African descent are eliminated from the running. African-Americans learn this early in the value-laden language of hair in our communities. Straight hair has historically been "good," nappy hair "bad."

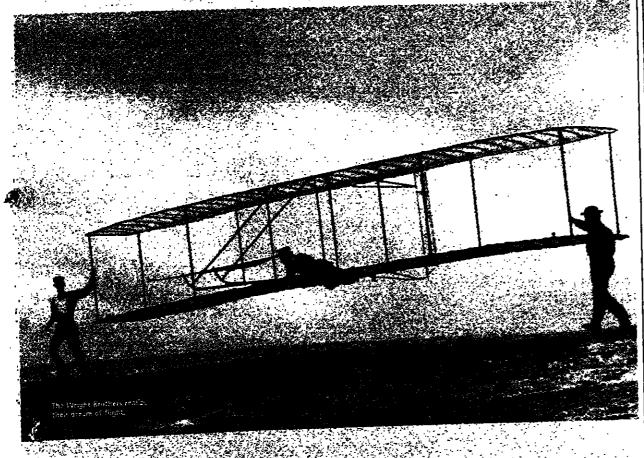
These attitudes may well have originated in the days of slavery. when relative rewards were given to those slaves who, usually as a result of rape, were of mixed parentage. Too many African-Americans have internalized and passed down these beliefs, as if proximity to whiteness inherently

enhanced our worth. Most African-American women have to deal with issues involving hair, first for ourselves and then for our children. Two decades ago I was worried because my 2-yearold daughter had almost no hair. Well-meaning people reassured me that baldness was a sign she would grow up to have "good" hair. Me, I just wanted her to have hair - good, bad, preferably in-

different. Ms. Sherman may have been armed with good intentions, but in using "Nappy Hair" in the classroom she tapped into a wellguarded secret in a community that is often under attack and has much to defend against. I suspect that the negative reaction to Nappy Hair springs from misinforma-tion and embarrassment that this young white woman inadvertently exposed both the depth and the

absurdity of a race secret. In writing, "coming on across the ocean from Africa ... one nap of her hair is the only perfect circle in nature," Ms. Herron used nappy hair as a metaphor for the tenacity, resilience and creativity of people of African descent. That some read her words as an insult is neither the writer's problem nor the teacher's. It is an issue that must be dealt with by those who use 'nappy' not as a description but as an epithet and then attack the messengers who dare to challenge their destructive attitudes.

The writer, author of "Straight. No Chaser: How I Became a Grown-Up Black Woman. surprised by the current uproar. contributed this comment to We black Americans live in a The New York Times.



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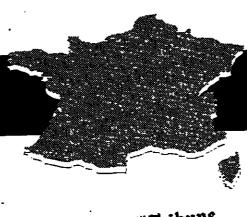
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Right place: Right time: Right decision.

Donors Pledge \$3 Billion to **Palestinians**

By Barion Gellman

donors have pledged more than \$3 billion in financial aid to Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority at the Americansponsored conference here aimed at building on the momentum of the in-terim Israeli-Palestinian accord nego-

tiated in October.

The European Union is the largest overall donor, with pledges of \$2 bil-

President Bill Clinton, who addressed the conference Monday, said the administration pledged to increase the U.S. contribution by \$400 million over the next five years. The increase, if funded by Congress, would be in addition to about \$500 million in existing

aid plans for the same period.

The international pledges, on an annual basis, are nearly equivalent each year to the Palestinian Authority's entire \$860 million budget. They would represent about a quarter of the \$3.3 billion Palestinian economy, which has been in sharp decline since the peace process began. Since Israel and the Palestinians reached mutual recognition in September 1993, every Palestinian economic indicator, from employment to per-capita income, has crashed. Adjusted for

inflation, the gross domestic product was smaller last year than in 1995.

The United States has spent \$375 million in direct aid and financed \$125 million in direct aid and financed \$125 million in loan guarantees since the last such donor conference in October 1993, which produced \$2.1 billion in all for the Palestinian economy. Most of the American funding went to build housing and roads, using Palestinian labor to increase employment, but the larger part increase employment, but the larger part of the international contribution went to

of the international contribution went to "budgetary support" — making up for chronic shortfalls in Mr. Arafat's ability to meet the Palestinian public payroll. "The money is good, and the general feeling and support is good," said the Palestinian planning minister, Nabil Shaath, reflecting a jubilant mood in Mr. Arafat's delegation.

Mr. Arafat has used his American visit

Mr. Arafat has used his American visit to press ahead with his case for statehood. He welcomed the donors' pledges and in a speech Sunday to Arab Americans he predicted that 1999 "will be the year of the independent Palestinian state." He stopped short, however, of repeating threats to declare statehood with or without Israel's consent when the agreed five-year "interim period" of limited autonomy expires May 4.



Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz of Iraq, foreground, raising a salute during a ceremony at the Martyrs monument in Baghdad on Tuesday.

BRIEFLY

UN Aide Asks Iraq For War Document

UNITED NATIONS, New York -

UNITED NATIONS, New York—
The chief UN weapons inspector, Richard Butler, has asked Iraq to hand over immediately a document detailing munitions spent in Baghdad's 1980-1988 war with Iran, according to a weekend exchange of letters released Monday.

Mr. Butler, in a letter to Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, said Baghdad should surrender a copy of the document, seen in July but not given to inspectors at the Iraqi. Air Force headquarters, by Nov. 30. There was no sign that the document had arrived by Monday, but diplomats expect the pressure to continue.

(Reuters)

Envoy, Back in Iraq, Denies Saddam Rift

BAGHDAD - President Saddam Hussein's half-brother, Barzan Tikriti, returning home after 11 years as an

envoy, is to receive condolences for his late wife, it was announced Tuesday.

According to banners in Baghdad squares, Mr. Barzan is to receive condolences for his wife in the family's home region of Tikrit over a three-day period starting Thursday. Mr. Barzan's wife, a sister of Mr. Saddam's wife, died of cancer in Switzerland last month. In an interview with a Jordanian

with Mr. Saddam and said he had decided to return to Iraq to quash media speculation that he was planning to defect. Mr. Barzan served until direct months ago as Iraq's envoy to the United Nations in Geneva. He has not returned to Iraq since the end of the Unit War in 1991. (AFP)

with Mr. Saddam and said he had the

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Egyptian Rights Aide Accused Over Funds

CAIRO — An Egyptian court ordered a 15-day detention of the secretary-general of the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights, Hafez Ahn Saada, and accused him Tuesday of taking foreign funds with the intention of "harming national interests," judicial officials said.

Mr. Abu Saada was summoned to a

Mr. Abu Saada was summoned to a court hearing after a weekly. Al Osboa accused his organization of "treason" for taking a \$25,000 check from the British Parliament's human rights comminee in return for publishing a report in September on police brutality against Coptic Christians. (AFP)

For the Record

The U.S. secretary of defense, Wil liam Cohen, and President Andres Pastrana of Colombia have announced plans to step up military cooperation in the war on drug trafficking, including a pledge to increase Pentagon training

BOOKS

newspaper Tuesday, he denied any rift

THE WIDOW KILLER

By Payel Kohout, Illustrated. 391 pages. \$24.95. St. Martin's Press.

Reviewed by Richard Bernstein

WE are in the world of evil and evil retaliation in this new novel by the distinguished Czech playwright Pavel Kohout, whose works were banned for 20 years in

his own country.
"The Widow Killer" takes place in the final months of World War II. Prague senses its imminent liberation, but the tive of the Reich, a man at first evil of the occupation is reincarnated in the evil of having death camps are a nasty rubeen occupied. A murderer is mor, transforms himself into a loose in the city, a deranged but resourceful figure who performs a series of ritual slayings, gruesome in their details, of German and Czech widows and then, when the Germans

wounded nation. In the end, a kind of moral reversal takes place in which the victim and the victimizer. the Czech and the German. change places, the one be- er kills a German resident of

himself the avenger of his

coming criminal as the other strives to atone for his mis-

What starts out, in other words, like a murder mystery, a taut and suspenseful thriller, turns into a powerful and gripping allegory by a writer steeped in the tragic lessons of Czechoslovak history.
"The Widow Killer" is

also a provocative book, provocative if only because one of Kohout's two main characters is a German policeman who is a liaison between the criminal police in Prague and the Gestapo. This representainclined to assume that the good man as he helps the po-

lice try to catch the murderer. It is a measure of Kohout's success in this novel that this transformation, which might have come across as congruence at the could group in the city that begin to withdraw, anoints trived, a sappy illustration of human universality, is persuasive in a book that is solidly grounded in both his-

tory and psychology. The story begins in February 1945 when the murder-

Prague, the Baroness of Pom- er, more mysterious in its erania and the widow of a than the Nazi political cruelty German general who turned that inspired it. against Hitler. On the day of The denouement of Kothe murder, an Allied bomb has landed in the city and

destroyed some buildings.

In the midst of the turmoil Dresden who works in the Prague Gestapo.
The Germans claim to be

to insure the safety of German

plicated anthenticity of its background. The Widow Killer provides a vivid portrait of Prague as the eta of Nazi occupation ended and the uncertain future yawned Ko-bout avelage the residual size. hout evokes the political situ-ation, which included not only Nazi efforts to hold Prague as an escape route for troops on the Eastern front but also the deadly competition between Czechoslovak democrats and nothing but lies — along with Communists, both of whom know the end of Nazi power is

That statement would seem only days away.

the intense, suppressed re-sentment of the Czechoslovbodied in the Prague murder-

hout's book comes against the background of the fiveday Prague uprising in May 1945 when the Czechoslovcaused by the bomb, a young aks, led by the Communists. Czechoslovak assistant de- took control of the city from tective named Jan Morava is the weakened and demoral-assigned by the Germans to ized German troops. Morava investigate the murder. He is and Buback become allies in supervised in the case by two senses: one, to catch the Chief Inspector Buback, a widow killer, and two, to pro-German police official from vent the Czechoslovaks from taking on the murderous as-

pects of the departing Nazis. The action is worthy of a eager to capture the murderer thriller whose ending it would be unfair to give away here. civilians in Prague. The real reason is that Buback's superior, the Gestapo chief in Prague, wants to collect inspire optimism. Indeed, Ko-hout leaves us with a brief and group in the city that could bitter afterward, indicating make serious trouble for the that the end of "The Widow Nazis as the Allied and Soviet Killer" was really just a new armies approach.

What makes Kohour's story kia, one in which, at least for a time, good and evil become time, good and evil become

> Morava's Czechoslovak saperior, a consistent moral voice in this novel, says at one point. "And that mission includes destroying all other truths which of course, are

to be Kohout speak At the center of the story is through the character that represents him in this book. which, like its author, is deep aks toward the occupiers and and pessimistic but not unthe inclination of some of aware that humankind some them to take on a kind of or later, can learn something personal megalomania, em- from the mistakes of the past New York Times Service

BEST SELLERS

The New York Times
This list is based on reports from more
than 2,000 bookstores throughout the
United States. Weeks on the list are not FICTION I A MAN IN FULL by Tom 2 MIRRUR IMAGE. by OUTRAGE by William J. 5 BAG OF BONES. by WITH GOD: Book I, by by Anne Race
7 THE PATH OF
DAGGERS. by Robert Berg 7 8 THE POISONWOUD BIBLE by Barbara 50, by Dave Barry 14 12 SHAKESPEARE: The 12 SHAKESPEARE: The Invention of the Human, by Harold Bloom 8 3: 13 A WALK IN THE WOODS by Bill Bryson, 12 24: PURE DRIVEL, by Steve Marin. 10 7: 15 A PIRATE LOOKS AT FIFTY, by Jimmy Baffett 13 23 RAINBOW SIX, by Tora o RAINBOW SIX. by Total Claims.

10 WELCOME TO THE WORLD, BABY GIRL, by Fairmer Flage.

11 THE LOCKET. by Richard Paul Evans.

12 THE HAMMER OF EDEN, by Ken Follett ...

13 MEMORIS OF A GEISHA in Arthur GEISHA. by Arthur Golden 14 TV DAY I FEEL SILLY & OTHER MOODS THAT MAKE MY DAY. by

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By Lawrence K. Altman New York Times Service

diseases in developing countries.

the Program for Appropriate Technology in the Program for Appropriate Technology in single private donations ever for health care. It is little initially focus on four varcines against the single private donations ever for health care. It

City, is the second largest from Mr. Gates, and it and streptococcus pneumoniae. The other two comes at a time when he is battling government vaccines prevent rotavirus infection, a diarrheal fantitrust charges in U.S. District Court in Washington. But Mr. Gates said in an interview that the foundation said the four diseases account for foundation said the four diseases account for

Mr. Gates is the world's wealthiest person, with an estimated net worth of at least \$60 billion. Mr. Gares, who has been criticized for not being more generous, said that he and his wife had

given \$2 billion to create two foundations. A disappeared, as a result of vaccinations beginning Dr. James Maynard, a PATH official, said that on costlier vaccines is taken from budgets to pay spokes woman said \$164 million had been dis- at two months. Hepatitis B vaccine is recom- his group received \$750,000 from Mr. Gates a immunization workers and support the health

will go to a nonprofit health organization in respiratory, diarrheal and liver diseases. Two donation was part of his expanding philanthropic about 2.5 million childhood deaths a year, or about one-third of the World Bank's estimate of annual childhood deaths from infectious diseases worldwide.

in the United States, Hib infection, which can

NEW YORK—Bill Gates, the chairman of tually give away about 95 percent of his formicrosoft Corp., and his wife, Melinda, will tune.

The donation on Wednesday to the commended for speed delivery of vaccines against rotavirus. It is recommended for an oral vaccine against rotavirus. It is recommended for infante beginning at age 6 weeks. Approval for an tributed. Mr. Gates has also said he will even-mended for routine infant immunization. Earlier speed delivery of vaccines against four childhood. foundations, the William H. Gates Foundation, to infants beginning at age 6 weeks. Approval for an improved vaccine for use in infants under two years against streptococcus pneumonia is ex-pected soon, a spokesman for Mr. Gates said.

Mr. Gates and PATH officials said the money, The donation, being announced in New York the bacteria Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) ways to make the vaccines widely available to ways to make the vaccines widely available to children in developing countries.

In recent years, pharmaceutical companies have used genetic engineering and other tech-niques to make more technologically complex, but more expensive, vaccines. Although such vaccines usually become widely available for children in developed countries, they are out of reach in poor countries.

PATH was founded to improve the health of

foundation in 1995, and an additional \$2.1 million this year, to support family planning and related activities

اعكذامن الأعل

PATH has developed curricula about binh control, infection prevention, delaying marriage and children. Schools in Kenya and factories in Indonesia have used the material, according to

A Web site (uninariourg) aims at keeping family planning clinics, particularly those with little financial resources, current about AIDS. reproductive tract infections, female genital mutilation and other important public health is-

PATH has also focused on providing hepetitis B immunization and has grown increasingly concerned about the cost, distribution and other problems developing countries face in buying the newer vaccines. Dr. Maynard said. Donor fatigue is setting in. Dr. Maynard said, and concern is cause ear infections and meningitis, has nearly women and children in this country and abroad. growing that in some countries, the money spent

Mr. Gates said that he became interested in the vaccine problem through meetings that he, his he wife and his father (who heads the \$1.8 billion of William H. Gates Foundations have held with he PATH officials and other scientists since Feb-es

PATH's official proposal for a large-scale vaccine initiative came in the last 60 days, Mr. at

Gates said. Dr. Maynard said that PATH intended to im- T. prove vaccine administration in as many as 18 to countries in the next 10 years by developing partnerships with the World Health Organiza- :k tion. Unicef and other international groups.

Aided by the Gates donation, PATH intends to ip try to lower the cost of vaccines and maintain a sleady supply of them through cooperative ef- ly forts of pharmaceutical companies, scientists, the World Bank, World Health Organization, Unicef 🔑

"Pinochet Goes **After Heated** Dispute With London Clinic

By Warren Hoge

LONDON — General Augusto inochet on Tuesday left the exclusive in London hospital where he has spent the 2 last month after officials there expressed .5 irritation over his continued presence ue and threatened legal action to force him 30 out.

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no. An ambulance under police escort emerged from the hospital gates shortly before 7 P.M. local time and headed off to an undisclosed destination, Friends have reportedly been looking for a se-cure house on a luxurious estate in Suror rey, where the former Chilean dictator 11: England unfold

13. His departure put to an end a dispute 12 between General Pinochet and hospital authorities who in recent days bluntly

the need for the move.

General Pinochet responded with his interpretation being put on his failure to many books in one lightweight device. vacate. Michael Caplan, an attorney for The devices allow word searches and the general, said his client had planned on departing Monday but that plans had < fallen through.

General Pinochet is due in court Dec. - 11 for a hearing on a Spanish petition to have him stand trial in Madrid on charges. - of genocide, terrorism and torture in conenection with the murders or "disappear-"ances" of 3,179 people during the years iafter he seized power in Chile in 1973.

The extradition request is under study by Home Secretary Jack Straw, the Britrish law enforcement minister, who alone has the power to interrupt the process and send General Pinochet home. One of the grounds available to him for taking such action is a finding that the 83-yearold general is not physically or mentally ofit.
The British government has remained

officially aloof from the sensitive dip-· lomatic case, saying it is a matter for the courts. Prime Minister Tony Blair said rlast week that neither he nor cabinet -colleagues of Mr. Straw's anticipate neven being consulted about Mr. Straw's _decision_

On Tuesday, the government took a detached view to Secretary of State -Madeleine Albright's comment Monday that Chile's right and desire to deal with its own past deserved "significant respect." Mr. Blair's spokesman said.
"Yeary are entitled to express their views. We don't think there is anything improper about people making their

He said that Mrs. Albright had spoken to Foreign Secretary Robin Cook about the case and that Mr. Cook had explained the legal process and the goverament's stance of distancing itself

In the House of Commons on Tuesday, one of Mr. Cook's deputies said that the "Pinochets of the future" should take note that Britain had just signed a taty creating a new international court to handle crimes against humanity. Tony Lloyd, a Foreign Office minister of state, said that the action sent "a strong signal to the Pinochets of the future that their actions simply will not be tolerated anywhere on this planet."

Ever since General Pinochet was arcase has been a lively issue of debate between the opposition Conservatives, who generally condemn the action and believe the general should be freed, and the Labour members of Parliament, many of whom want to see him sent to

Spain for trial.

**U.S. to Release Pinochet Files

The United States said Tuesday it would declassify and make public doctoring the rule of General Pinochet, in Reuters reported from Washington.

The State Department spokesman, it is conducting a review of documents in an its possession that human rights abuses during the Pinochet era. We will declassify and make public as much information as possible."



Francois Cornelis, left, the Petrofina chief, listening Tuesday to Thierry Demarest, the Total chief, at the announcement of their planned merger. peting against a multitude of very large. London, told AFX News. "We think

DEALS: Oil-Price Drop Nudges U.S. and European Companies

Continued from Page 1

Standard Oil trust, which was broker, up by government regulators nearly nine decades ago. Now, however, the industry is moving in the direction of large companies, according to Lysle Drinker, an analyst at John S. Herold Inc., an energy analysis company in Greenwich. Connecticut

The deals announced Tuesday "probably just accelerated what was going to happen anyway," he said. "The entire marketplace is shifting to bigger and bigger players.

One reason, he said, was that formerly government-controlled oil companies in

very well capitalized companies."
While the Exxon-Mobil arrangement seems driven by the opportunities to cut costs, analysis said Total's interest in Fina has to do with reducing its reliance on the upstream part of the business, the exploration for and production of oil.

Total has always been a bit topheavy in the upstream, which worked to their advantage during times of high oil prices, but in the current period of price weakness, this more integrated approach will serve the company well, "Richard Kriigsman of Petrocompanies in London told Reuters.

Other analysis said Total may have paid too much for Fina, noting that there several countries have been privatized. was also overcapacity in the refining "expanding their horizons to other countries, so it's not just Exxon competing against Fina, it's Exxon companies and the countries of the countries

they may have done it in panic and been influenced by the current merger mania in the sector.

Mr. Drinker of John S. Herold said e that Total previously divested itself of U.S. refining assets but would acquire n two Texas plants by purchasing Fina. He o added that American regulators would probably force Exxon and Mobil to self some refineries, putting more of these e kinds of assets on the market, a negative for Total whether it decides to keep or sell the Fina operations.

There was speculation that Total had to outbid its French rival, Elf Aquitaine. Total's stock fell in Paris on Tuesday, reflecting some disenchantment with the offer. It closed at 618 French francs, (\$108.38), down 87 on the day. By contrast, Petrofina rose to 16,875 Belgian francs (\$483.04), up 2,625 francs.

Total said its arrangement called for payment of nine of its shares in exchange for every two shares of Petrofina held by a group of shareholders that collectively own 9.6 million shares, or 41 percent of the company. Many of those shares are owned by entities affiliated with Baron Albert Frere, the Belgian financier who is to become a vice chairman of the combined company.

At Tuesday's closing price, the Total bid is worth 17,111.49 Belgian francs for each Fina share. Total plans to offer Internet has only expanded that market, other Fina shareholders the same ninefor-two exchange ratio next year.

Exxon is also offering stock in its bid. at a ratio of 1.32015 of its shares for each Mobil share. Stock in both companies weakened Tuesday, with Exxon falling \$3,375 to close at \$71,625 and Mobil

BOOKS: Digital Texts Are Starting to Find Their Place Alongside Printed Works

Continued from Page 1

more as a content provider. I look at my 11-year-old son's school backpack, which I worry is raining his spine, and I can see advantages to electronic books.

authorities who in recent days bluntly labeled him an unwanted guest.

A spokesman for Grovelands Priory Hospital had said he received a clean bill if of health two weeks ago and suggested he might be extending his inedical stay is to avoid appearing at upcoming hearings on his possible extradition to Spain.

In a statement with the chilling tone of the need for the move.

Can see advantages to electronic books. We know we are standing on the edge of a precipice."

The aption that a shift is imminent comes because of several parallel developments. First, electronic books technology is advantages to electronic books. We know we are standing on the edge of a precipice."

The aption that a shift is imminent comes because of several parallel developments. First, electronic books technology is advantages to electronic books. \$1,000 to \$1,500, is due early next year.

All of them allow downloading of own statement, saying he was 'dis-tressed' at the 'wholly unfounded' memories, permitting a person to carry have built-in dictionary functions.

Second, the amount of material available for downloading is now enormous. And third, a generation is coming of age for whom absorbing digital information seems easy and natural.

At Kent State University in Ohio, Roger Fidler, director of the information design laboratory, said he planned to test two kinds of electronic books in classes next spring and fall. The hand-held devices, which weigh 3 to 5 pounds, can store 10 to 15 books downloaded from the Internet.

In Japan, Mr. Fidler said, the automatic distributor of digital magazines, which is to be placed in train stations and airport waiting rooms, could become a model for magazine and newspaper distribution. The distributor is under development by the Japanese eBook Consortium, a group of about 150 publishing and consumer

electronics companies. One important change in the last few years is the growing use of the Internet for reference works. Texts for physicians, lawyers and other professionals are being put on line, where they can be updated with greater ease and at lower cost than printed texts. Also, a growing number of textbooks have on-line supplements for graphics, pictures and, increasingly, video and audio supplements. Some think it will not be long before the entire books are transferred into digital format. John Wiley & Sons, which publishes texts for professionals in technical

Chemical Technology, and the Wiley Encyclopedia of Electrical and Electronics Engineering — will be available on-line. Like most other reference works on the Internet, those books will be accessible for a fee.

: That is also the case with an Internet publishing site called Online Originals, which publishes original works of fiction that can be bought on-line for \$7 each.

Some publishers are placing texts on the Web for free, relying on contribu-

fields, says that in the coming months two of its standard reference works — Gutenberg Project, for example, has the Kirk-Othmer Encyclopedia of placed thousands of classics on-line.

Dr. Plantz and Dr. Adler, who hope that advertising by drug companies will ultimately allow the site to pay for itself.

Also, Emedicine.com offers, at no charge, a new encyclopedia for emer- Dr. Plantz said. gency-room physicians that was written by 400 doctors. Members of the military in far-flung places and a missionary in Haiti are among those who have told the organizers, Dr. Scott Plantz, a research director at the Chicago Medical School, and Dr. Jonathan Adler of Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, that they found the site helpful.

The site has been financed primarily by more significant, the used-book market. down \$2.50 at \$83.50.

"We have up to 400,000 hits a day,"

The market for educational texts was more than \$5.5 billion last year, and the which has grown more than 8 percent so far in 1998. If textbooks do move further into the digital realm the potential for profits is likely to be greater still, be-cause that change could reduce the need for warehouses, trucks, returns and, even

pean command, the officials said. In

planning for these missions, the Euro-

pean leadership would work within

NATO under a new deputy to the al-

decision allowing Europeans to combine

units of their own into special task forces.

perhaps borrowing advanced U.S. equip-

This dovetails with a 1995 NATO

liance's supreme commander.



EUROPE: Paris Joins London in Push for an EU Defense Policy In particular, some U.S. officials fear tion as a multinational army under Euro-

Continued from Page 1

well as in Washington — that Britain will never be a part of any program liable to jeopardize U.S. security ties with

In the past, hopes for moves in this direction went nowhere because of ambiguous views in Washington about an EU role in defense. Officially, Washington has applauded the idea of getting Europeans to assume a larger share of the defense burden, but many policymakers Tony Blair decided this autumn to have feared that the change risked blur-pursue the overtures from France. ring command authority in the alliance.

that an independent European military capability could lead to paralyzing quarrels in the alliance's councils and to political rivalry that could undermine America's role in Europe's military se-To address this, the French-British

blueprint has a formula based on the scale of the threat to be faced. In a major crisis, the European allies' forces, just as they do now, would operate in NATO. But they would also be organized, at least on paper, for smaller contingencies where the European troops could func-

ment. This U.S.-backed approach has encouraged French pragmatism in NATO, where France recently volunteered to run a rescue mission for the embattled Serbian province of Kosovo. Jose Cutileiro, secretary-general of the WEU, said he doubted that Britain

and France had decided to scrap the organization, saying it had become "capable of mobilizing the assets of all European countries.

But many European officials have long felt that the WEU is too diffuse. It failed to persuade governments to let it handle the disorders in Albania this year that were ended by French and Italian forces.

Now, the WEU's assets - mainly a military planning team and a center in Spain for analyzing photographs taken by satellites — will be put into "a new ad hoc vessel in the EU." a French official

The crucial shift, officials said, occurred this autumn when Prime Minister Tony Blair, reversing Britain's longstanding refusal to discuss defense in EU councils, decided to pursue overtures from France on military cooperation.

Defense — a domain where Britain is a major European power — is the strongest card that the Blair government can play to safeguard British influence as the European single-currency project

goes ahead without London. British aloofness on defense issues had created a risk that France and other EU countries would take positions that conflicted with Britain's interests in

joint diplomacy, military cooperation and detense industry. France has long wanted a defense role for the EU, especially one with decisions mainly in the hands of governments that supply forces. For Paris, a deal is timely in heightening the British-French defense relationship as a reminder to Germany's new chancellor, Gerhard

Schroeder, not to dismiss France as yesterday's partner. Under the new arrangement, France would become even more engaged with NATO without being obliged to budge from its official coldness toward the

command of NATO's southern flank. 'There will be more Europeanness an aide to Mr. Chirac.

He was referring to the idea of a "European caucus" inside NATO that vashi. Mr. Ovsyannikov and Rory could impair decision-making. The germ of such a caucus is contained in the Amsterdam treaty on EU unification that is due to take effect once it is ratified by

SUMMIT: French-German Rift Threatens to Block EU Expansion Continued from Page 1 vowed to wage a common fight to solve

pains to explain that they were united in their support for EU enlargement, but they refused to set any dates and acknowledged that further expansion must not take place until the Union carries out complex financial and institutional revisions to accommodate 20 or more members.

"France and Germany agree that Europe can't end at its eastern frontier," Mr. Schroeder said. "We want timely negotiation with the entry candidates and we mean timely." For his part, Mr. Chirac said that "reform of the institutions is a prerequisite, but that does not cast any doubt on our will to progress as rapidly as possible." While Mr. Chirac and Mr. Schroeder

the jobs crisis in Europe and work more closely on European defense matters, they did not bother to conceal glaring differences on a number of other pressing matters.

Germany's announced intention to close its 19 nuclear power stations holds serious repercussions for France, which stands to lose lucrative waste-reprocessing contracts as well as lucrative joint investments in nuclear power.

France has also expressed anxiety about Germany's questioning of NATÓ nuclear doctrines, including a demand by Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer for an alliance debate over whether NATO should break with previous policy and pledge never to be first in using nuclear

France, like the United States, has rebuffed Mr. Fischer's call and contends that renouncing first-use of nuclear weapons would irreparably damage NATO's deterrence capability.

But Mr. Schroeder defended his for-eign minister and said that Germany would exercise its right to raise the debate within alliance councils.

On immigration, Germany says it cannot afford to continue taking more than half of the foreigners entering the European Union, and it wants other countries, including France, to accept a larger share of asylum-seekers and would-be immigrants. France has rejected the German request because it fears accepting more foreigners would fuel racial tensions and push more French voters into the arms of the far-right National Front.

Overdue Rescue From the Arctic Wilds

By Kevin Sullivan and Mary Jordan Washington Post Service

porridge and canned meat, and endured nightly visits from polar bears who clawed on the door of their two-room hut. For a month and a half, three filmmakers stranded by blizzards on a desolate Russian island north of the Arctic Circle rested in a London clinic Oct. 16, the mostly sat in the darkness to conserve fuel and communicated by e-mail with wouldbe rescours on three continents...

For six weeks the blizzards raged across the mountains of Wrangel Island in the East Siberian Sea, northwest of the Bering Strait The tiny research but was in darkness for 21 hours a day, with only three hours of weak twilight. The men had three books between them: one in The United States said Tuesday it each of their native languages. By last weekend, their food supplies were good condition given what they've just nearly exhausted, with no way to get

food in or them out. Then on Tuesday the weather cleared just enough for a helicopter to make the trip across the frozen sea, pick the men up. and carry them to safety on the Siberian mainland. By evening, the men were resting in a hotel in the frontier settlement of Pevek, itself an ice-locked and desolate

three tired men. "Everybody is healthy and in good humor," Nikita Ovsyanteam, told Renters by telephone from TOKYO - They survived on cold Pevek. "We were in a warm cabin with enough fuel, quite safe and everybody was healthy. The only real problem was that we were running out of food."

news service. He said he had lost 8 kilograms (18 pounds) and now weighed about 65 kilograms. "It was very cold," he added. "And we had packed just a few clothes for autumn.'

Michael Stedman, managing director of Natural History New Zealand Ltd., a film company co-producing the documentary on Arctic wildlife that the men went to the island to make in mid-September said the three "were in pretty gone through — the meager food rations, the extreme cold and the psy-

chological tensions. One of the ironies of the rescue was the key role played by technology - and its limitations. The world is now so totally wired to the internet that even three people standed in one of the most remote a head. On Tuesday night, the Japanese the Arctic had prevented them from and difficult to reach places on the globe television network NHK, the other comoving. They were huddled together in line in mind in pressing for the new Arctic outpost, but a welcome sight for were able to send e-mail via a battery
producer of the film, was reporting that a small research but at Point Blossom.

policy now.

powered satellite telephone. "It would have been much more horrific without nikov, a Russian wildlife expert on the that satellite phone, in the polar darkness with polar bears scratching at the door at night — it wasn't fun," said John Hyde, a producer at the New Zealand company. There were conflicting reports about

who rescued the men. The Russian Min-"Basically our health is good but we are thinner," Tatsuhiko Kobayashi, a credit, as did a private emergency rescue Japanese television producer, told the service hired by the New Zealand film company. The confusion underscored the delicate nature of the negotiations to rescue the men: a Japanese producer, an Australian cameraman and a Russian guide. Officials close to the talks said that there was tremendous pressure building to get the men out Tuesday. Officials from several of the governments involved reportedly favored askthinking was that the Coast Guard equipment and technology was superior to what the Russians had on hand.

But the Russians were reportedly uncomfortable with the idea of having Americans rescue a Russian in Russia



The wildlife expert Nikita Ovsyannikov was among the filmmakers.

the Russian government had arranged alliance since the French failed to get the rescue. But officials from the New ing U.S. Coast Guard crews and aircraft Zealand film company and AEA Infrom Alaska to perform the rescue. The ternational SOS, the private rescue com- but no dilution of NATO," according to pany, said AEA had operated the helicopter that lifted the men out.

The three filmmakers — Mr. Koba-McGuinness, a camerman - arrived on Wrangel in mid-September and were and wanted to get the men out as soon as scheduled to stay until mid-October. But possible to keep the issue from reaching weather severe even by the standards of France, probably in February.

Reviving Donizetti's Finale

His Birthplace Celebrates a Double Anniversary

By David Stevens

ERGAMO. Italy - The Gaetano Donizetti revival movement has been going on for a few decades now, but it has just posted a red-letter day here with the exhuming of the composer's long-forgotten final opera. Dom Sebas-

Part of the problem, despite the richness of the music, is that the work is a five-act French grand opera, written for the Paris Opera when that now almost

moribund genre was at its height.

During the Paris rehearsals in 1843. Donizetti was plagued by the continual and unmusical tinkering of his powerful librettist. Eugene Scribe, and by the iron caprices of the prima donna. Rosine Stoltz, mistress of the opera's director. The composer was also contending with the first signs of the final stage of the cerebral syphilis that would soon incapacitate, then kill him.

The first productions in Paris, Vienna and Milan had some success, but this was not durable, and the last notable production was in 1955 in Italian at the Florence Maggio Musicale, conducted by Carlo Maria Giulini.

The revival year was the major and closing event of the extended celebrations - in the Lombard city where the composer was born and died - of the bicentennial of his birth on Nov. 29. 1797, and the 150th anniversary of his death in 1848.

And as befits the occasion, this was a serious business. It is the first use of a new critical edition published by Ricordi. in which Mary Ann Smart had the task of resolving many conflicting or incomplete sources. The production includes the long Act 2 ballet, obligatory for the Paris Opera then but almost always cut now in revivals of French grand opera. And it was sung in mostly commendable

French by a mostly Italian cast. The story is pseudo-history about a real 16th-century king of Portugal who actually died in a lost battle in Morocco. In the opera, however, he survives thanks to a Moorish princess whose life he has

saved earlier. They, of course, love each other, although she is married to the Moorish military chief. Back in Lisbon. Sebastien finds his throne usurped and himself imprisoned as an impostor. The two lovers die in a futile escape attempt.

The ending is oddly abrupt, as if the composer felt things had gone on too long but he didn't know how to stop. Yet, despite the gloominess of the story, there is an abundance of fine solo opportunities for the five principals and a rich lode of ensembles, including a solidly worked-out septet.

The first night cast came off impressively Sunday in roles that, after all. were written for some of the leading singers of the day. Giuseppe Sabbarini was unflinching in the tenor title role (written for Gilbert Duprez), stalwart in unremitting adversity and heroic in the vocal demands - High C's and D flat

Sonia Ganassi was in rich voice and dramatically passionate in the high-mezzo role of Zayda; Nicolas Rivenq. the one Frenchman in the cast, was splendidly flamboyant as the Moorish warrior Abayaldos, and Roberto Servile as Camoens, the soldier-poet, made the most of what are perhaps the opera's best known solos. Enrico Cossuna and Giorgio Surjan were sonorous villains as the usurping Dom Antonio and the really evil Grand Inquisitor. Daniele Gatti, conducting the orchestra of Bologna's Teatro Comunale, was in easy control of the proceedings.

Pier Luigi Pizzi, who staged and designed, demonstrated how to use small means to suggest large events. He kept the action to the front of the stage. broken by flights of steps, while through an ornate frame could be seen background happenings — the departure of the fleet, the desert battle, a prison cell.

The work won an enthusiastic reception on opening night in the Teatro Donizetti, although nothing approached the delirium and tons of flowers accorded the ballet, mainly because of the elegant presence of Carla Fracci, the long-time La Scala prima ballerina.

Although the first two performances (the production is double cast) were in

Bergamo, the orchestra, chorus and ballet are those of the Bologna theater, where this production opens the season on Sunday and will have eight performances through Dec. 23,

A few days earlier. Bergamo mounted a new production of another opera that had a great success in its day but is now a rarity — "Il Furioso all'Isola di San Domingo." which dates from a decade earlier than "Dom Sebastien." The "furioso" of the title is

Cardenio, who flees to the island after being driven mad by his wife's infidelity. He spends most of the opera in a state of rage, only to be reconciled with his contrite wife at the last second.

The work falls in the semiseria category, which implies at its best a kind of Shakespearean mix of mutually reinforcing serious and comic elements.

But the real importance of this opera is that it provided an outlet for Donizetti's inclination to make the baritone the romantic hero, reinforced by the desire of the Teatro Valle in Rome to give a fat part to the outstanding young baritone Giorgio Ronconi.

HIS he did, and in this production the veteran Renato Bruson delivered handsomely. using his dramatic baritone to express the character's grief and sexual anguish. "Il Furioso" is also rich in well-developed ensembles and in the musical contrast implicit in the genre. Luciana Serra took the role of the errant wife, and Gustav Kuhn was the en-

ergizing conductor. The production, staged by Luca De Fusco and designed by Giuseppe Crisolini Malatesta, had a kind of children's picture-book literalness, with toy storms and shipwrecks to go with the real drama of the music.

Bergamo's all-Donizetti autumn season has also included - besides 'L'elisir d'amore' and "Lucia" - a double bill of "Pigmalione," his first piece written in 1816, and "Rita," composed in 1841. The latter was not performed by the Opera Comique until 1860, and the adolescent Pygmalion not until a century after that.



A scene from Pier Luigi Pizzi's production of Donizetti's final opera, "Dom Sebastien," in Bergamo.



An Exhilarating 'On the Town'



The three sailors at the heart of "On the Town" and two of the women they meet and fall for.

By Vincent Canby New York Times Service

EW YORK — Manhattan is transformed. The potholes are gone, as are the cabdrivers who don't know that the Bronx is up and the Battery's down. Nobody is trying to sweep the place clean of corruption or sin. Manhattan is an uproarious, singing, dancing city, where nothing is impossible and the future is without limits, at least for a single day.

That is something of the effect of George Wolfe's exhibitanting new production of "On the Town" at the Gershwin Theater. If you don't leave this show with an enhanced awareness of the meaning of joy, take out your cell phone and beep your therapist.

On the Town 'is the seminal 1944 musical that, arriving the year after "Oklahoma!." demonstrated that "new" in the American musical theater need not mean simply pastoral. Here is a love letter to Manhattan as the biggest. craziest beehive on earth.

More important, "On the Town" introduced Broadway to the prodigious talents of Leonard Bernstein, the composer: Betty Comden and Adolph Green, who wrote the book and lyrics. and Jerome Robbins as a choreographer, rather than as the dancer.

The original collaborators, led by the director George Abbott, took only six months to get "On the Town" written and on its feet, using as their inspiration the Robbins-Bernstein ballet, "Fancy Free." This revival has been somewhat longer en route, beginning with the Joseph Papp Public Theater production in Central Park in the summer of 1997.

which received mixed reviews. The initial intention had been to transfer the Central Park production to Broadway intact. When the principal Broadway producers withdrew, Wolfe. the Public Theater's producer as well as the director, decided that the Public

would go it alone. A risky decision. Since then, a couple of choreographers

have come and gone, and several of the principals have been replaced. Then, 10 days before the scheduled Nov. 19 opening, the first night was put off three days. At the same time, it was announced that Joey McKneely, who received a Tony nomination as the choreographer of "The Life." was being brought in to fine tune the major dance routines designed by Keith Young, the show's choreo-grapher of record, who is making his Broadway debut with "On the Town." So, call the coroner? Not at all.

The news now: Wolfe has worked a miracle. He has located the essence of the show that eluded him in the park and cast it with spirited young performers who can sing, dance and levitate at will. 'On the Town' is on its way. Not in a very long time have you heard a score as richly complex and romantic, combined with a book and lyrics that are so gloriously bright, witty and off-the-wall.

This is a mysteriously bewitching show, originally conceived and staged in its own time and place, about three wildly energized sailors unleashed in wartime New York on a 24-hour pass. Wolfe has made no attempt to update the material or give it the benefit of hindsight. Yet it plays today as if it had been written last week, not as a piece of

nostalgia but as living literature. The show is dated by its wartime period, but its blithe manners, which are those of a cockeyed fable, are timeless. That it can still refresh, surprise and bring you close to tears (of helpless laughter and sweet melancholy) is because it s so resolute in the way it avoids kitsch.

For each of the three sailors at the heart of the adventure, a lifetime is compressed into this single day, no encounter is by chance and every connection has meaning. At the beginning of the show. Gabey, Chip and Ozzie emerge, as if uncaged, into the intoxscating light of New York: at the end.

they disappear back into their ship. Blackout. The end. Maybe curtains.

The unspeakable is obliquely defined in the gorgeous score, in lyrics that can be elegantly discreet (listen to "Some Other Time) and in the choreography. Gabey (Perry Laylon Ojeda) is the ro-mantic one. He falls obsessively in love almost as soon as he touches land with Miss Turnstiles, nee Ivy Smith (Tai Jimenez), the subway girl-of-themonth, whose poster he sees.

Chip (Jesse Tyler Ferguson), a skinny. red-headed fellow with a bendable frame. is more or less captured by the robustly proportioned Hildy Esterhazy (Lea DeLaria), who drives a cab. He wants to visit the Hippodrome and buy a ticket to "Tobacco Road," because that is what his father did in 1934, though both landmarks have now vanished. Hildy's purpose is seduction: they can talk later.

Ozzie (Robert Montano), who has gone to the American Museum of Natural History thinking it was the Museum Modern Art, finds his soul mate in Claire DeLoone (Sarah Knowlton).

DeLaria, the discovery of the Central Park production, is bigger and better than ever on Broadway, where, three times at the performance I caught, she came close to stopping the show and leaving the dience numb with pleasure.

HE other members of the sextet are also immensely appealing: Ferguson, who is sly, knowing and very funny as DeLaria's cooperative victim; the lantern-jawed Montano and the sweet-voiced, modelpretty Knowlton, and Ojeda, who deivers two of the show's best numbers Lonely Town" and "Lucky to Be Me and Jimenez as Ivy Smith.

"On the Town" has become a classic, but it clearly hasn't grown old. As it celebrates a very particular time and the marvelous muddles of its exuberantly inchoate characters, it also celebrates life itself. Sometimes, a day is all there is,

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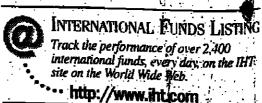
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O New York Times/Edited by Will Short.

Picket Diary



By Mile Zwerin Herald Tribune

ARIS — is far as she knows, and although the word "star" bothers he, Mari Boine is the first pop par from above the Arctic Circle.

She started singlig as therapy. She did not realize that helyoice was anything special. It was emarrassing for her to sing in public. Ther was no plan to be an Cartist. The first lyrid she ever wrote were based on John Lemon's song "Working Class Hero." The were in the Sami language, her natife tongue. She idenfified her alienation with Lennon's, although it was focused on culture more though it was tocsed on chaire more than class. Then pople began to come tup to her and say 'You are singing about me. You are writing my story.' They tell her that he music helps them to be remember forgotta dreams.' She did not begin o learn the history or the language of her cople until she went to teachers' colleg. 'I was taught in

elementary school to hate what I am," she says "I was ashamed of my language and my culture. It was impressed upon us that we were somehow inferior." Legally, size is Norwegian. For years, she called berself a Lapp, the Norwegian name for her people. All over the world, the Samil people are known as Lapps.

Her first professional move was to enter a song competition. Language was not specified, but the contest, which took place in the north where the Samis are a majority, had always been won by sing-ers singing in Norwegian. But she de-cided to sing in Sami. The first two years she placed. (She attributes not winning to "racism.") She won on the third try.

Now she was well known in northern Norway. Then she appeared on national television. A play based on her songs was a success in Oslo. She was a Norwegian star now. She began to tour Germany.
In 1989 she released her first CD —

'Gula Gula' (Listen Listen). It was about the Earth as mother, about respect for nature and the connection between

humans and nature -- essential concepts for her people. The ecology movement took note and identified. There was a call from the rock star and world music patron Peter Gabriel, whose company Real World Records became her distributor. And she was on a larger map.

Her parents were Christian; they brought her up that way. They were loyal to what Boine calls "their colonizers." We are not accustomed to thinking of Norwegians as colonizers. or as "racist." As a matter of fact, Boine smiles while acknowledging a great dif-ference in degree between this partic-ular case and others: "Sometimes I wish we were black," she says, "Norwe-gians say to me; But you look just like me. There is no difference between us. What's the problem, are you making all this up?""

One of the songs on her new album "Balvvoslatjna" (Room of Worship), her sixth, on the Antilles label, includes the lines: "Their hardened talk/Their hardened state/Their hardened smile/

Their hardened laws/Drain me/Suffo-

Although she and her first husband were both Sami, they spoke Norwegian to each other, and to their small child. Finally becoming conscious of this. they decided to try to change. A similar form of awakening was going on with the Inuit and the American Indians to the west. The Sami people have been called "white Indians."

Now Sami is taught in the school in her village. Gamehhis-njarga, near the town of Karasjok. Citing an example of the system that keeps them alternated, she points out that a letter from her village to a Finnish town just across the nearby border, maybe 30 kilometers away (19 kilometers), would be routed down to Oslo, across to Helsinki and then all the way back up.

Maybe this does not sound so sinister. but it appears to bother her. Called "the last wilderness in Europe." the Sami country nevertheless straddles four frontiers — Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia. The wilderness is being increasingly tamed. Motorized snow scooters roar everywhere, and the reindeer are herded by helicopter. Boine comments on this schizoid place and time in another song: "I was born in 1954/Write with a Macintosh/Stars show the way."

While she can feel creeping materialism. Boine is determined not to become pessimistic. It is good that her people are no longer as hungry or as poor as they once were, but she wishes we didn't have to lose our special

HE became active in politics and wrote political songs, and now that the number of Samispeaking people has doubled over the past decade, she likes to think that she and her songs had something to do with that.

Recently she caused something of an uproar by singing in Sami in a church. where she was receiving a prize. Apparently that is still just not done. People who have been oppressed. she explains, "then go on oppressing themselves. Unconsciously, they my to

please the oppressor."

Much of "Balvvoslatjna" sounds folkish (she covers "Eagle Man/Changing Woman by Buffy Sainte-Marie). Other songs are like messages from a bizarre wilderness. There's a lot of rock - backbeats, up-front bass lines, reverb and delays. Now she is trying to make her music more physical, more dance-

احتكنامن الأحل

Muri Boine: "It was impressed upon us that we were somehow inferior."

verted, too intellectual. She would like it to be more joyful. She has proved to be a dedicated and talented business person, guarding her copyrights in a privately owned company.

Nevertheless she tries to stay relatively clear of the business side and a few months ago, being interviewed for a feature in the powerful international music business weekly Billboard, she admitted that, after 18 years in the industry, she had never before heard the magazine's

name. (The reporter was appalled.) Now she has moved to Oslo, although she still keeps a house in the Sami country. (It is tempting, though it would

able. It had grown perhaps too intro- be inaccurate, to call it "Lappland.") After a six-week tour of Sweden, Germany, Austria, Belgium and France, she is now on her way back up there. Even though, or rather just because, there is almost no sunlight at all, she loves the month of December. That is when she

cnows exactly who she is. She is married a second time, to a Senegalese musician, and they spend about a month a year in Africa. Her band has taken on a more international flavor; with two Africans, two Russians and a tabla player from India. They communicate in a combination of Woloff, Russian, Sami and English. Her husband is

> cany at both the Vic and the Piccadilly has been

the best classical and modern troupe to have hit I andon in the pas decade - and it would be churlish not to ac-

knowledge the financial help he has had

from the impresarios

Bill Kenwright and Duncan Weldon, as

well as from the Mir-

vishes when they

owned the Vic - it is tragic that his curtains

should have been so abruptly closed while both the RSC and the

around in search of an

flounder

National

The Tale of a Crowded Marriage Revival of Pinter's 'Betrayal' as 'Art': Stylish but Empty

By Sheridan Morley

ONDON Of all Harold Pinter's plays. d his 1978 "Betrayal" (at the National Theatre), about a three-cornered affair is perhaps the most familiar and easily revivable in the commercial theater.

As so often this season, one could have wished that Trevor Nunn, director of both play and theater, had opted for one of the many Pinters that are more difficult to stage without subsidy. Anyone cast in this one has necessarily to compete not only with Penelope Wilton and Michael Gambon and the late Daniel Massey of the original, but also with the movie memories of Patricia Hodge, Jeremy Irons and Ben Kingsley.

These are tough actors to follow, but this time around Nunn is clearly going for the "Art" market - 90

utes, a chic staging that could all too easily be whisked into the West End, and empty as a dead bottle of Pinter's device of starting

at the end of the affair and working back over nine by some grainy film THEATER scenes to its beginning is clips, nor by the nothing new, in that on Broadway, Kaufman and 1998 without any Hart had pioneered it for their corresponding altera-"Merrily We Roll Along" back in 1934, When Stephen Sondheim's musical version was in troubled rehearsal almost 20 years ago, a stage manager was famously asked whether it was getting any

still backwards." Once we have worked out that, in Princess Diana's celebrated analysis, three people are apt to make a marriage

better. "How good can it

get?" came the reply. "It's

no-intermission min- Imogen Stubbs in Trevor Nunn's production of "Betraval."

not a lot more that "Betrayal" his stages must make their has to tell us. Moreover, to money at the box office has stage it in the vast open spaces effectively turned his combut at the center there lies a stage it in the vast open spaces effectively turned his com-script as ultimately stylish of the Lynelton, rather than in pany this winter into the the more intimate Cottesloe. equivalent of a National makes the whole affair seem. Theatre Haymarket, restagthe more intimate Cottesloe. ing old winners that

still more remote, a feeling not improved needless updating to Imogen Stubbs is, as al- ly as once they did (by all tion to the text.

enchanting and accounts, tickets for the cur-Douglas Hodge is an inter- rent National Prime of Miss estingly rough-trade Jerry. Jean Brodie" are not exactly while Anthony Calf is a difficult to obtain), and the somewhat undercast Robert. other is that in its current The mood of the piece is penny-pinching mood, the Pinter at his most accessible arts administration is more and comparatively uncomplicated; if anything, "Beirayal" suggests a return to his form as the screenwriter of

"The Pumpkin Eater," a sim- time around. ilarly chilly and chic tale of unfaithful publishing folk filmed a decade earlier.

Let's be clear about the objection here. Of course Pinter company at the Piccadilly and belongs at the National, but not necessarily in what has been proved the most commercially successful of all his plays around the world, residence at the Old Vic. Nunn's principled belief that

identity. It is also, I have to say, a little sad that he has chosen to go out on one of his very rare losers. Until now, Alan Bennett's "Kafka's Dick" has been the only one of his many stage and television plays that I had never seen, and I wish I had left it that way. It is also more than unfortunate that it should have been revived a few

have seldom failed

problems here. One

is that the old oil

wells no longer gush

quite as impressive-

There are two

anywhere.

likely to penalize the National

for making a profit than to

reward its good housekeeping

with an increased grant next

the first and rather better Na-

tional production of "Betray-

States, having been told that

there is, shamefully, no pub-

al." now sadly winds up his

Peter Hall, who directed

from the Haymarket, where Tom Stoppard's "Invention of Love" is showing precisely how these biographical

hundred yards away

comedies should be done. Bennett's special subject here is Franz Kafka (a querulous John Gordon Sinclair), whom we first meet on his deathbed in 1924 Vienna. From there we flash forward to modern Britain, where Kafka's irritable biographer and friend, Max Brod, billets himself on an unsuspecting suburban couple (Julia Mc-Kenzie, forever doing something unexpected with avocados, and her henpecked husband, Denis Lill, who is writing a Kafka article for his fellow insurance managers' magazine).

It is not long before Kafka and his domineering father have also joined the houseparty, and so too has the host's father, a magnificently manic Eric Sykes, who is in truth the only reason to see the play at all. Bennett can never quite decide whether he is writing a parody of critical biography or a serious analysis of Kafka's confused mental state, and as a result the play reels around goes off to work in the United into listless farce.

All in all, a disappointing close for a great company. lic money for him to return to What we have to work out now is how to get Hall back Given that the Hall Com- where he belongs

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Many Voices For a Single Currency

Europeans Pick Delegates For International Talks

By Barry James :

BRUSSELS - Confronted with the problem of electing a single voice to represent the single European currency. finance ministers decided Tuesday to send a virtual choral society of spokesmen to international meetings, with the Emopean Commission having an undefined supporting role.

The commission, the executive body of the European Union, argued that it needed to attend meetings of such in-ternational groups as the Group of Sev-en finance ministers to represent the broad interests of the 11 countries that will be adopting the euro Jan. 1.
In a decision that must be approved at

2

1 25

the European summit conference in Vienna next week, the ministers accepted the commission's argument. They said it could take part in meetings on an ad hoc basis, presumably in the person of the commissioner for economic and mon-

trary affairs, Yves-Thibault de Silguy.

"It is a good success, a satisfying result," Mr. de Silguy said. "It is the last big decision before the adoption of the earo, and it corresponds to the desires of the commission."

Otherwise, the curo zone will be represented by the president of the European Central Bank, Wim Duisenberg, and the finance or other minister from whichever country holds the revolving EU presidency — or is next in line for the presidency, if the current president is not a member of the single currency. This will happen in 2001 with Sweden, 2002 with Denmark and 2003 with Greece, unless they adopt the euro first.

What is not known is whether the United States, Japan or Canada will accept facing a phalanx of Emopeans across the G-7 conference table. Euroland also will be represented by three existing G-7 members — Germany, France and Italy. Britain, which is not immediately adopting the single currency, also has a seat.

Rudolf Edlinger, the finance minister of Austria, said the primary European representative would be the envoy of the country holding the EU presidency. At G-7 meetings, that official would be "supported" by the representatives of the other EU countries and by the commission. On visits to third countries or at meetings of the International Monetary Pand, the presidency representative would be supported by the commission. Meanwhile, France, Germany and

other countries pushed ahead with plans to "harmonize" certain aspects of European tax regimes, including a program to eliminate anti-competitive corporate loopholes and curb the scope of

tax havens. Fiscal paradise for some is hell for many," the European commissioner for the single market, Mario Monti, said. The countries' finance ministers re-

ected calls from a trade lobby, supported by some politicians, for post-ponement of a decision to end duty-free sales during travel among EU countries. Mr. Monti said the ministers saw a "total inconsistency" between continuing duty-free trade and seeking tax har-

■ Duisenberg Warns of Slowdown

Mr. Duisenberg said the European Central Bank saw "unequivocal" signs of an economic slowdown among the countries adopting a single cornercy next year, Agence France-Presse reported from Frankfurt.

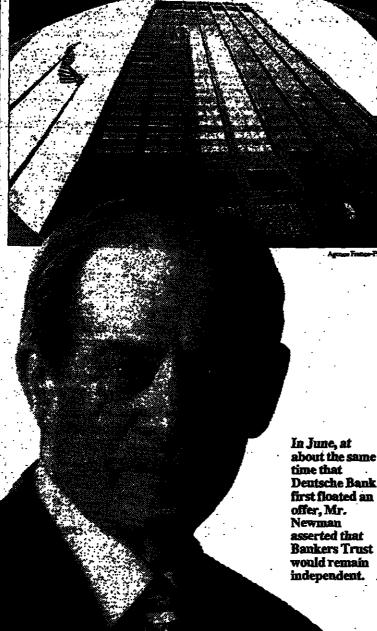
Speaking after a meeting of the cen-tral bank's governing council, he said the council had yet to set the interestlevel at which the euro would be

The central banker said financial markets were subject to less volatility now than in November. But risks remain, he said, noting a significant risk of erosion of confidence within the euro zone.

Mr. Duisenberg said the new central bank had set a target for money supply growth of 4.5 percent in an effort to keep inflation under control.



Bankers Trust



The Man Who (Almost) Saved Bankers Trust

Chief's Efforts Were Undone by Markets

By Timothy L. O'Brien

NEW YORK — It wasn't supposed

to end this way.

When Frank Newman took over Bankers Trust Corp. three years ago, he wowed to rein in the New York-based bank's vannted trading operation widely viewed as populated by free-wheeling hot shots — and he regularly proclaimed his determination to main-

tain Bankers Trast's independence. Now, undone by huge trading losses and internal strife, Mr. Newman, 56, has been forced into an act he firmly opposed as recently as five months ago: the sale of Bankers Trust.

On Monday, in a move that had been widely anticipated for more than a week, Deutsche Bank AG announced plans for a \$10.1 billion acquisition of Bankers Trust.

"Prank will go down in history as the person who sold Bankers Trust," said Raphael Soifer, an analyst with Brown Brothers Harriman. "Frank is partially the victim of circumstance, but as the bank evolved under him, with an emphasis on emerging markets, trading in Eastern Europe and Asia, junk bonds, and initial public offerings, he left Bankers Trust par-

ticularly vulnerable to the global fi-nancial turnoil of the last year."

Mr. Newman, who declined repeared requests for an interview, is not the only victim of the upheaval that has ripped through international banks in an unusually turnultuous year.

Like many of his counterparts in the banking world, Mr. Newman was

blindsided this summer by trading

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Dec. 1 Libid-Libor Rates

losses that snowballed after Russia devalued its currency and declared a debt moratorium in mid-August. Unlike many others, however, he

has not lost his job.
While Mr. Newman will join the board of Dentsche Bank and have a senior position in the investmentbanking unit created by Deutsche's purchase of Bankers Trust, he is not expected to wield significant mana-

gerial control in the new emity.

'If the third quarter hadn't happened, I would have characterized Newman's legacy as having led a significant turnaround in the company's fortunes," said Diane Glossman, an analyst with Lehman Brothers Holdings. "He did a remarkable amount of work in a short period of time, but then

his time ran out." The clock started ticking in July. At the time, his position was relativ strong. Wanting to keep the bank intact, he had recently spurned overtures from Bank of New York Co., Mellon Bank Corp. and State Street Corp. to sell Bankers Trust's valuable business as a securities custodian

In an interview in June, at about the same time that Deutsche Bank first privately floated the idea of an offer, Mr. Newman asserted that Bankers Trust would remain independent. "We are proponents of the idea that bigger is

not necessarily better," he said.

Bankers Trust, founded in 1903 to handle the trust business of other large banks, transformed itself in the late 1980s and 1990s into one of the most aggressive and innovative trading

See NEWMAN, Page 16

Hoechst and Rhone Will Combine Drug Sectors in Step Toward Merger

By John Schmid

FRANKFURT - Hoechst AG and Rhone-Poulenc SA announced plans Tuesday to merge their pharmaceutical and agrochemical businesses next year in a step toward a full merger.

The biggest drugmakers in Germany and France are betting that sheer size will make them fit for a fiercely competitive and rapidly evolving global market dominated by American companies.

The new French-German company, in the form of a 50-50 joint venture, is to be called Aventis and have its headquar-

ters in Strasbourg.

Based on 1997 figures, the operation is expected to have annual sales of \$20 billion, a work force of 95,000 and a combined annual research budget of \$3 billion. That would make it the biggest pharmaceutical company in the world and one of the biggest agrochemical

The move marks the first phase in a "two-step plan" meant to lead to the eventual merger of both European parent companies. Before a full merger, which is not expected for another two or

three years. Hoechst and Rhone-Poulenc plan to dispose of their traditional commodity chemical opera-tions that no longer fit with their drugs, biotechnology, pesticides and animal-health products lines, operations known collectively as "life sciences."

By disposing of low-margin bulk chemicals businesses, which suffer from overcapacity and lower-cost competition from Asia, the two companies want to move squarely into businesses with higher margins and faster growth. Within three years, the group hopes to achieve annual savings of \$1.2 billion. Juergen Dormann, chief executive at

Hoechst, said the full merger could create one of the first "Europe AG" companies to take advantage of a proposed pan-European company statute that is being debated in Brussels. If approved, it would create uniform tax and labor laws throughout the European Union.

Mr. Dormann would be the chairman of the new group, and Rhone's chairman, Jean-Rene Fourtou, would become the deputy chairman.

'We want to create a new company, with European roots and global reach, to take full advantage of the extensive op-

portunities in life sciences in the 21st century," a statement from the chief executives of the two companies said. Analysis said the planned name, Aventis, recalled the name of the rival

Swiss drugmaker Novartis AG, the world's third-biggest drugmaker, which itself was formed in a 1996 merger. Although the merger would catapult

Aventis to the top spot in terms of sales in life sciences, pushing U.S.-based Merck & Co. to No. 2, analysts said the new group faced several shortcomings.

Despite its huge research-and-devel-

opment budget, the venture has few if any products in the pipeline that fit the best-selling category, analysts said. Many also say the companies will run into French-German culture clashes as they try to unite.

"They are buying time," said Ludger Moes, an analyst at WestLB Research in Dusseldorf. Given the merger trend in the industry, both companies would have become takeover candidates without a merger, Mr. Moes said. Hoechst shares closed at 68.10

Deutsche marks (\$40), down 4. Rhone-Poulenc closed at 263.40 francs (\$46.19),

Markets Shiver Abroad but Hold in U.S.

Compiled by Our Staff Front Despatches NEW YORK - U.S. stock prices remained buoyant Tuesday, a day after a big drop on Wall Street sent ripples

through other world markets. Internet stocks soared because of continuing optimism that the holiday season would send record numbers of shoppers to retail sites on the World Wide Web. But blue-chip stocks were held back by Exxon, which fell after it agreed to buy Mobil.

At the close, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 16.99 points at 9,133.54. The Standard & Poor's 500 stock index was up 11.67 at 1,175.30, and the Nasdaq composite index, in which Internet stocks are concentrated, rose 54.34 to 2,003.88. The number of advancing stocks was roughly equal to the number of declining ones on the New York Stock Exchange. Earlier, a number of markets fell

sharply around the world because of concern that the 216-point drop in the

Dow on Monday signaled an end to the runup on Wall Street that had seen stocks rally to record levels.

The decline in Europe was led by banks amid concern that they may need to set aside more money to cover bad

loans in developing countries.
"We want to avoid the banks which are lending to emerging markets, where margins are so terribly thin," said Rich-ard Lewis at WorldInvest Ltd. "Risks are so much higher than people

Benchmark stock indexes were down 3.59 percent in London, 4.03 percent in

Paris and 4.95 percent in Frankfurt. In Hong Kong, the Hang Seng Index slumped 4.1 percent. The index has lost more than 8 percent since the govern-ment said Friday that the economy would contract 5 percent this year, more than its earlier estimate of 4 percent.

On Wall Street, Exxon fell 31/4 to 711/4 after it agreed to buy Mobil. Investors questioned the premium that Exxon was

down 21/2 to 831/2 after rising in recent days in anticipation of a deal.

Securities firms, some of whose share prices have doubled since their October lows, fell amid concern that prices have risen too far too fast, given the outlook for profits. Metrill Lynch fell 1 1/16 to 73 15/16. Charles Schwab fell 2½ to 541/s, and Lehman Brothers Holdings dropped 11/s to 481/s after analysts at Merrill Lynch recommended selling brokerage shares.

Valuations for capital-markets-oriented securities broker dealers, for the most part, are 'full,' 's aid the analysts, Judah Kraushaar and Amy Butte, in a report. They added, "We recommend investors take some profits here."

Analysts have also been cautioning that some internet companies are overvalued. On Tuesday, such warnings fell on deaf ears. Internet stocks are "the hot

See MARKET, Page 16

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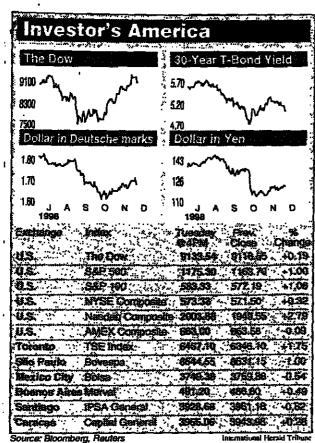
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THE AMERICAS



Very briefly:

• Telefonos de Mexico SA cut the amount it charges competing carriers for using its network to complete long-distance phone calls by 53 percent, to 2.61 U.S. cents. The Communications and Transport Ministry also abolished the 58 percent fee Telmex charges all carriers for calls from abroad. • MCI WorldCom Inc. may buy a mobile-phone service company in the next several years, Chairman Bert Roberts said, as

competition drives down the market value of such companies. • Amazon.com Inc. signed agreements making it the exclusive book and music retailer for Hoover's Online, a leading provider of company information on the Internet, and Broadcast.com Inc., an Internet video and audio programmer.

• Intel Corp. plans to buy the assets of iCat Corp., using a subsidiary to acquire the closely held company's software used by small and medium-sized businesses to create Web-based storefronts" that allow for secure processing of transactions.

• Sony Corp., paid \$187.5 million for 4.3 percent of General Instrument Corp., a maker of cable-TV set-top boxes. Corp Banca SA purchased 85 percent of Banco del Orinoco CA for \$89 million, creating the fifth-largest Venezuelan bank

and bolstering its national network of branches.

• Cargill Inc. bought more than 60 percent of Bunge International Inc.'s Venezuelan operations for about \$140 million to strengthen the American crop trader's position in the country's cereal and grain markets.

• Boeing Co. won an order valued at \$124.5 million for three of its 130-seat 737-300 jetliners from Boullioun Aviation Services Inc., an airplane lessor based in the Seattle area.

 Leading Canadian retailers' revenues were 8.8 percent higher, at 5.58 billion dollars (\$3.64 billion), in September than a year earlier, led by increased sales of housewares and health and personal-care products.

• Delta Pine & Land Co. shareholders approved the acquisition of their company by Monsanto Co. The sale of the 5.6815 francs and to 1.3820 Swiss largest cottonseed company in the world was announced in francs from 1.3942 francs. The pound

Firm Rates In Europe **Hurt Dollar**

NEW YORK - The dollar fell for a second day Tuesday against the Deutsche mark as traders scaled back expectations for lower interest rates in Europe.

There were some hopes we might see a cut in European rates even before Dec. 31," a day before the single currency is introduced, said J. P. Neergaard, manager of foreign exchange at Den Danske Bank. "Those have more or less van-

In 4 P.M. trading, the dollar fell to 1.6840 Deutsche marks from 1.6940 DM on Monday in New York. It also

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

dropped to 122,115 yen from 123,135 yen.

A Bundesbank council member, Reimut Jochimsen, said a central bank survey of German companies showed they did not see an immediate need for the Bundesbank or the European Central Bank to lower interest rates. Lower European rates would reduce returns on currencies that will start to be supplanted by the euro in January, when the European Central Bank takes over monetary policy for the 11 nations adopting it.

The decline came despite a warning from Wim Duisenberg, president of the European Central Bank, that he saw "unequivocal" signs of gross domestic product slowing in the euro region. But Mr. Duisenberg has repeatedly moved to quell speculation that he would cut rates.

The dollar was also undermined by a report that U.S. manufacturing activity fell in November for a sixth consecutive month, pointing to a weaker U.S. economy. The National Association of Purchasing Management's index fell to 46.8 points last month from 48.3 in October, A reading below 50 suggests a contraction in the economy.

Further signs of manufacturing weakness could give the Federal Reserve Board, which has cut its benchmark rate three times since late September, added scope to lower that rate again.
While lower U.S. interest rates

would make borrowing cheaper for American companies and consumers. they also would diminish returns on dollar-denominated deposits.

Against other currencies, the dollar fell to 5.6460 French francs from Bloomberg, Reuters, AP climbed to \$1.6543 from \$1.6478.

U. S. STOCK MARKET DIARY

Kellogg Seen Cutting 20% of Headquarters Staff part of its strategy to reverse a decline in sales and profit. Company executives were not available for comment. A tele analyst who follows the company few results. If Kellogg does cut as the few results are few results. If Kellogg does cut as the few results are few results. If Kellogg does cut as the few results are few results. If Kellogg does cut as the few results are few results are few results. If Kellogg does cut as the few results are few results are few results. If Kellogg does cut as the few results are few results are few results. If Kellogg does cut as the few results are few results are few results. If Kellogg does cut as the few results are few results are few results are few results. If Kellogg does cut as the few results are few results are few results are few results. If Kellogg does cut as the few results are few results are few results are few results are few results. If Kellogg does cut as the few results are few results. If Kellogg does cut as the few results are fe

By Dana Canedy New York Times Service

NEW YORK - Kellogg Co. was expected to tell 400 employees at its headquarters in Battle Creek, Michigan, on Tuesday that they would lose their jobs, analysts who pany said. That number is about 20 percent of the staff.

In September, Kellogg, the employees who among them we world's largest cereal maker, de- and would not keep their jobs. manded that all 2,000 employees at its headquarters justify their jobs as pretty big," said Nomi Ghez, an tions may be too deep and produce cheaper private-label cereals.

office would be closed Tuesday. Analysts said that this was probhad been in contact with the com- ably because the maker of products including Frosted Flakes and Rice Krispies planned meetings to tell employees who among them would

Stock Exchange.

Investors have been expecting

available for comment. A telephone recording said the company's corporate communications of the New York an analyst with Credit Soisse First Boston.

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More important than any job significant cuts in jobs and fac- cuts, he and others said, is that the tories as the company attempts to company find ways to adjust its save \$100 million to pay for in- pricing to keep cereal costs in line novation, increased promotional with consumer willingness to pay budgets and product introductions. and that it win back business lost to But some worry that the reduc- bagel makers and to producers of

GE Capital Shops At Japan Leasing

STAMFORD. Connecticut GE Capital Services Corp., the world's biggest nonbank finance company, confirmed Tuesday that it was negotiating with Japan Leasing Corp. to buy some assets of the bankrupt company.
"We are in talks with Japan

Leasing and have an exclusive right to the talks," said a spokeswoman for GE Capital, the financial-services unit of General Electric Co.

Japan Leasing filed for bank-ruptcy in September, the largest such filing in the country's postwar history, with more than 2 trillion yen (\$16.2 billion) in liabilities. The action helped weaken Japan Leasing's biggest lender and second-largest share-holder, Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan Ltd., which the government took over last month.

MARKET: U.S. Stocks Hold Up Despite Overseas Sell-off

Continued from Page 15

sector, and they have a disproportionate effect on the overall market,'

said Dan Mathisson, head stock trader at D. E. Shaw Securities. Bluefly, an on-line retail operator, rose 61/2 to 20 15/16. More established companies shared in the gains, with Yahoo! up 141/4 at

Trading in Treasury securities stayed within a limited range. The price of the benchmark 30-year bond rose 13/32 point to 103 4/32, with the yield, which moves in the opposite direction to the price, falling to 5.05 percent from 5.07 per-

cent Monday. Several economic reports released Tuesday provided little direction for the markets, painting a mixed picture of the U.S. economy.

The manufacturing sector, for instance, slowed for the sixth straight month during November, but there are signs of a possible improvement in the economy by mid-1999, according to two of the reports.

and imports declined at many of the nation's factories last month.

U.S. STOCKS

The group's index of economic activity showed a reading of 46.8 points, down 1.5 percent from October. Any reading under 50 percent is a sign of contraction in the industrial sector.

"The overall picture in November is one of faster decline in manufacturing activity," said Norbert Ore, who directed the survey for the purchasing managers.

But the Conference Board, a private research group, reported that its index of leading indicators rose 0.1 points in October, to 105.6. The gain followed two months of flat

The National Association of Pur-chasing Management, which tracks omy fared in the previous month the manufacturing sector through a The leading indicators are widely survey of corporate purchasing ex-viewed as a forecast of how the ecutives, said new orders, exports economy will fare six to nine months in the future. In yet another report issued Tues-

day, the Commerce Department said U.S. construction spending rose 0.3 percent in October, in line with

Spending also rose by a revised 0.3 percent in September, down slightly from the previous estimate of a 0.4 pct rise.

In October, spending rose to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$665.8 billion from \$663.9 billion in September. On a year-on-year basis, construction spending was up 63 percent in October.

The Asian crisis, which is "killing export manufacturing," led to lower interest rates, said Diana Swonk, deputy chief economist at Bank One in Chicago.

That, in turn, is "fueling con-The purchasing managers' survey struction and consumer spending," is closely watched because it is the she said. (Bloomberg, AP, AFP)

NEWMAN: Bankers Trust Chief Was Undone by Markets and Internal Strife

Continued from Page 15

shops on Wall Street. But a series of derivatives scandals a few years ago wreaked havor on the bank and led to the departure of Charles Sanford as its chairman and the ascent of Mr. Newman to that position.

Mr. Newman's credentials — he had been chief financial officer of Wells Fargo & Co. and of Bank America before serving as a top his cutbacks in their business. official in the Treasury Department from 1993 to 1995 - were seen as what was needed to restore Bankers Trust's damaged reputation.

But Mr. Newman, who had no

Bankers Trust. He is respected for his analytical abilities and methodical planning, but he was widely criticized within Bankers Trust for being aloof and awkward in social settings. Mr. Newman also relied on a small group of advisers from the West Coast, which alienated some senior executives. He also made enemies among traders, who resented

Even with these tensions, Mr. Newman succeeded in making important changes at Bankers Trust despite the financial mess he inherited.

ment banker, never entirely fit in at Last year, only 16 percent did. As Mr. he began to lose the ability to de-Newman guided Bankers Trust more deeply into overseas markets and allowed its junk-bond business to expand, he also bolstered its presence in investment banking last year by buying Alex. Brown & Sons, a regional firm with an important role in un-

Deutsche Bank at a distance until the torrent of ill will unleashed by the In 1993, 72 percent of Bankers August combined to weaken his experience as a trader or an invest- Trust's profit came from trading. standing. At that point, insiders say, years."

termine his own fate. Mr. Newman's future now is

hazy. In a news conference Monday, Deutsche Bank's chairman, Rolf-Ernst Breuer, said Mr. Newman's duties would involve overseeing the integration of the two companies, Despite an uneven performance hurdles in the United state of the U helping to negotiate regulatory hurdles in the United States and the Nazis during the Holocaust.

"My sense is that Frank will just Alex. Brown acquisition and substantial trading losses in July and of Brown Brothers Harriman said
August combined to weaken his "and he'll be there for only a few

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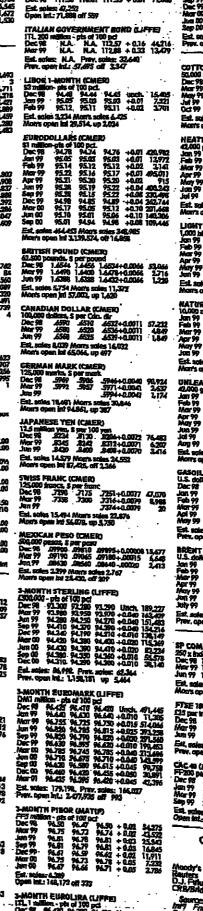
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Tuesday's 4 P.M. Close The 200 most traded stocks of the day, up to the closing on Wall Street.

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Lyonnais To Sell Unit In Belgium

Compiled by Our Sud From Disputche

BRUSSELS - Deutsche Bank AG has agreed to buy the Belgian subsidiary of Credit Lyonnais SA, giving the largest German bank a fourth European retail banking market, a person familiar with the simanon said Tuesday.

Analysis said the transaction would cost Deutsche Bank at least 18 billion Belgian francs (\$515.2 million).

Deutsche Bank, which also has operations in Italy and Spain, would gain the seventhlargest Belgian bank, with as-sets of 465 billion Belgian francs and 38 branches.

Credit Lyonnais must dispose of its Belgian subsidiary as part of the European Unionmandated sale of its retail assets outside France in return for government aid. On Monday, Deutsche Bank said it had agreed to buy Bankers Trust

Corp. of the United States.

Belgian banks are small on a European level, and they need to merge to be able to compete." said Jehanne de Walque, a bank analyst at Pullaetco in Brussels. She estimated that Credit Lyonnais Belgium would sell for about 1.5 times its book value of 12 billion Belgian francs, or about 18 billion francs.

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A Deutsche Bank spokes man in Frankfurt said the bank had held talks with Credit Lyonnais Belgium. He declined to comment on whether the bank would buy the company.

Spokesmen at Credit Lyonnais in Paris and Brussels declined to comment.

Deutsche Bank's offer for Credit Lyonnais Belgium, made in mid-November, was the best of three final bids, an investment banker familiar with the situation said.

Credit Lyonnais shares fell 5.10 French francs to close at 494 (\$86.63), while Deutsche Bank stock fell 4.60 Deutsche marks to 100.10 (\$58.81). (Bloomberg, AFX)

Budget Confusion Mars Russia-IMF Talks

By Daniel Williams

MOSCOW --- Russia began talks Tuesday with Michel Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, under a shadow of

confusion over the country's budget. The government announced delays twice Monday in the present-ation of its 1999 budget, finally say-ing it would be released Dec. 10. geni Primakov's efforts to show that government data. his government is in expert hands.

Russia is still hoping the IMF will provide portions of a \$22 billion can that was worked out during the debt payments.

The budget delay coincided with official figures that show still darker

Official figures show still darker times probably lie ahead for Russia's economy, already deep in crisis.

percent. Overall, the Russian econ-financing to allow them to continue. omy has shrunk by almost 40 per-Union in 1991. In only one year, The clamsy postponement was an 1997, did its GDP grow, and then by other blow to Prime Minister Yev- a scant 0.8 percent, according to

The new figures confirmed what was already evident on the streets of Russia's cities and the dirt roads of loan that was worked out during the its villages. Shops and restaurants summer and then put on hold when have closed, imports and the retail Russia abruptly devalued the ruble trade they nourished have declined, particularly as regards the budget. In August and defaulted on many and farm production fell dramat—

The Finance Ministry, headed by ically because of an early drought and late heavy rains.

[A central bank official said Tuestimes probably lie ahead for Rus-sia's economy, which is already years to restore the country's strug-

istry predicted that gross domestic News reported. Hundreds of insolproduct would shrink 5 percent in vent banks are being closed, while 1999, after this year's decline of 3 others are being given new loans and

"We so far have not been able to cent since the breakup of the Soviet restore confidence in the interbank market," said Tatyana Paramonova, first deputy director of the central bank. "The loss of confidence between banks and clients is the hardest lesson that's been learned here."]

Almost three months into Mr. Primakov's shepherding of the economy, plans for pulling Russia out of its tailspin are still mired in discord,

Mikhail Zadornov, pressed for a low budget deficit and fought to maintain the value-added tax, a steady source of government revenue, at 20 percent. The chief tax collector. deep in crisis. The Economics Mingling banking system, Bloomberg Georgi Boos, battled to reduce the

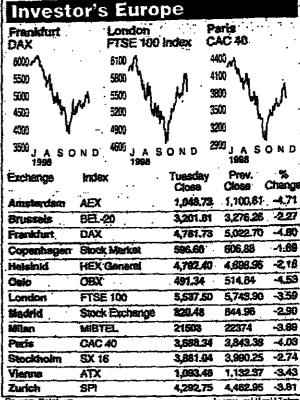
guing that a lower rate would

prompt tax evaders to pay up.
On Friday, the cabinet approved
Mr. Boos's plan, and Finance Ministry officials worked all weekend to make budget projections fit. Suddenly on Monday, the level was reset at 15 percent, sending the officials back to their calculators.

In addition to the loans, the Primakov government wants the IMF to bless its negotiations with an array of foreign lenders to reduce debt payments next year. Officials have already said Russia cannot make payments on much of its approximately \$17 billion in debt due next year.

Mr. Zadornov lowered expectations of reaching an IMF accord, saying Mr. Camdessus was not arriving

with a "briefcase full of dollars." "At the moment, money is not the main thing we need, although we need that too," he said. "We expect understanding from the IMF and a program to relieve Russia's debt burden."



Peugeot to Add 900 Jobs in Britain

Demand for 206 Model Spurs French Carmaker to Expand Output

LONDON — PSA Peugeot Cit-required because of the huge pan-financial year, to profitability roen. SA, the French automaker, European sales success of the 206 A total of 1,125 jobs will be elimwent against the industry trend range," Mr. Parham said.
Tuesday by amouncing that it. The model is also built at a plant 900 jobs at its Ryton plant near Covenity in central England.

Pengeot said the extra workload at the plant, which currently has 2,200 workers making its 206 hatchback secretary, Peter Mandelson, welmodel, should create 2,000 jobs among regional suppliers.

The employees "deserve a tre-

mendous pat on the back for improving productivity and quality pansion to take place," said Richard ness of the location," he said. Parham, Pengeot's managing director for Britain.

Pengeot plans to add a third production shift at the plant by May, raising output to more than 3,400 The increase in demand for the

206 is in strong contrast with the Presse reported from London. fortunes of other British-based car Courtaulds said the measures

Tuesday by announcing that it. The model is also built at a plant would increase production and add in Mulhouse, France. Pengeot said that across Europe it had taken about mont businesses, Courtaulds said. 180,000 orders for the car since it went on sale in September.

The British trade and industry comed the news of the extra jobs. "That this investment has been

won against strong competition is a telling testament to the flexibility of the Coventry work force and unstandards that has allowed this ex- derlines the continuing attractive-

■ Courtailds to Close 8 Plants

Courtaulds Textiles PLC of Britain said it would dismiss 1,220 workers and close eight factories at cars a week from the current 2,500. its recently acquired Claremont Garments subsidiary, Agence France-

Courtaulds said the measures were factories; a number of plants have cut necessary to return Claremont, which the greatest scope for further imreported a pretax loss of £12 million provements.

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"The increase in production is (\$20.4 million) for its most recent

inated at the eight factories in England, with the other 95 job cuts to take place at the headquarters of Clare-

Claremont is a major supplier to Marks & Spencer PLC, one of the leading British department stores, and was bought by Courtaulds in October. It has 5,800 employees.

The chief executive of Courtaulds, Colin Dyer, said: "It was always clear that restructuring would be necessary to restore the profitability.

"We very much regret the need for the proposed redundancies, but these are vital if we are to achieve increased flexibility and cost effec-

Mr. Dyer said Courtaulds had made a review of all its clothing factories and decided "to concentrate our manufacturing on our most efficient sites and those which have

Athens Rescinds Sale of Retailer

ATHENS - Greece failed for the second time this year to sell Hellenic Duty Free Shops SA as it annulled Tuesday the sale of the company to a French-Greek consortium.

The government canceled the sale of a 67 percent stake in the chain, the largest Greek retailer, for 82 billion drachmas (\$288.8 million) after the consortium led by Saresco SA of France failed to meet payment terms.

A spokesman said the government would look into "new possibilities" for the sale. It called off the first sale attempt this summer after receiving what it said were unsatisfactory bids.

Restructuring of the public sector, including the sale of state-owned companies, is considered key to the Greece's drive to join the European single currency in 2001.

Hellenic Duty Free's shares fell 8 percent, the maximum permitted in one day, to close at 3,930 drachmas.

(Reuters, Bloomberg)

Very briefly:

· Deutsche Post AG is negotiating to buy Deutsche Postbank, Germany's Finance Ministry confirmed, but it refused to discuss published reports that 30 percent of the state-owned postal bank was to be floated on the stock exchange.

· Deutsche Boerse AG is seeking approval from the Labor Ministry to keep the Frankfurt stock exchange open for trading on the public holidays of Ascension, Pentecost Monday,

Corpus Christi and German Unity Day. • Telecom Italia SpA gave its new chief executive, Franco Bernabe, broad power to negotiate a pay-television alliance. The company did not mention Rupert Murdoch of News Corp., who has expressed interest in its Stream pay-TV unit. · Denmark's central bank warned that the country's rising current-account deficit and accelerating wages might cause it to raise interest rates to defend its currency exchange-rate policy. • UBS AG's Warburg Dillon Read unit is getting out of the

a result of the move. • Ireland's Public Enterprise Department said the entry of domestic and foreign companies into its newly deregulated telecommunications market would cut prices by 20 percent.

business of trading in energy and base metals futures and options. The investment-banking unit will eliminate 20 jobs as

 Ford Werke AG is suspending production of its Fiesta car model from Dec. 14 to 18 because of low demand.

• Degussa AG's full-year pretax profit rose 42 percent, to 741 million Deutsche marks (\$435.4 million), as revenue rose 4 percent, to 15.9 billion DM, led by stronger chemical sales. Asian sales increased slightly, while domestic sales slipped. Red October said it had bought a rival Russian candymaker, Petroconf of St. Petersburg, from Kraft Jacobs Suchard AG. There was no confirmation of the deal from the European food unit of Philip Morris Cos.

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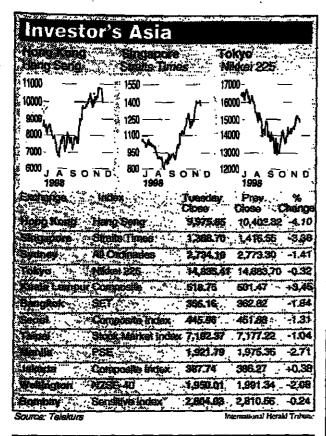
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ASIA/PACIFIC



Very briefly:

- The Tokyo Stock Exchange suspended trading on longterm Japanese government bond futures contracts twice because of software problems with its trading system. The exchange has had repeated difficulties with its new futures and options trading system, which became operative Nov. 2.
- Bank Negara, the Malaysian central bank, is preparing a "comprehensive master plan" to outline the banking sector's direction over the next two decades, the governor of the central bank, Ali Abul Hassan Sulaiman, said.
- Fuji Heavy Industries Ltd.'s chairman, Isamu Kawai, was arrested on suspicion of bribing a legislator from Japan's governing party to help secure a defense contract.
- China's spending on telecommunications infrastructure will rise 28 percent this year, to 160 billion yuan (\$19.3 billion), according to the Ministry of Information Industry. The country added 23 million subscribers to its telecommunications network in the first 10 months of the year.
- International Finance Corp., the investment arm of the World Bank, plans to invest as much as \$23 million in Philippine Airlines Inc., which is holding talks with Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd. of Hong Kong and Northwest Airlines Inc. of the United States on selling a dominant stake.
- Singapore will replace Hong Kong as the world's freest economy next year unless Hong Kong takes radical steps to restore its competitiveness, the World Heritage Foundation

Kim Asks Chaebol to Speed Restructuring

Bloomberg News SEOUL - President Kim Dae Jung turned up the heat on South Korean industrial conglomerates Tuesday, seeking pledges of faster restructuring from their leaders.

Mr. Kim plans to meet next week with the heads of the Hyundai, Samsung, Daewoo, LG and SK groups to extract promises of firm action on restructuring, said Park Jie Won, a presidential spokesman. Further delays could make foreigners less willing to invest in already shaky South Korean industries.

Restructuring the debt-laden conglomerates known as chaebol is a priority for Mr. Kim's administration as it battles the country's worst recession since the Korean War. It

AirTouch Joins

TOKYO --- AirTouch Com-

munications Inc. plans to form a cellular phone venture with

Japan Telecom Co. and Nissan

Motor Co., the companies said

The venture is aimed at de-

veloping a next-generation cell phone that would send moving

pictures and speed up transmis-

sion of large amounts of data,

Japanese cellular phone op-

erators are developing an ad-

vanced cellular phone stan-

dard, as capacity for sending

data under the current standard

cellular, or PDC - is limited.

lular phone company in the world, will take a 26 percent

stake in the venture, to be

called IMT-2000 Planning

Corp. Japan Telecom, an in-

ternational and domestic long-

distance phone carrier, will

hold 40 percent, and Nissan,

known as personal digital

AirTouch, the largest cel-

according to the companies.

Tuesday.

destabilize the economy with a rap- ing of debt while trying to avoid the five chaebol. id credit-fueled expansion that they responsibility for reckless investremain reluctant to scale back.

"The meeting is aimed at concluding the question of restructurwouldn't have been any need to take should aid them, as shareholders action if everything had worked

Mr. Kim's decision to intervene personally followed a rejection of the five groups' plans to swap some operations with other chaebol. Credmittee assessing corporate restruc-turing called the plan inadequate.

Oh Ho Keun, chairman of the

blames the companies for helping government aid and the reschedul- Mr. Kim's talks with the heads of ment that led to overcapacity.

"They need to change their way the question of restructur- of thinking, Mr. Oh said. "They Mr. Park said. "There now think the banking system have already suffered from accumulated losses. That's the result of their own management mistakes."

The five chaebol agreed to combine companies in seven industries. including aerospace, petrochemicitors and a government-led com- als and computer memory chips. But Mr. Oh said they had failed to present detailed plans on how to turn around the troubled businesses.

They ruled that the chaebol must not expect any benefits from their creditors until they have taken serious and substantive steps to clean up the mess they created." said one government aide, who

asked not to be identified. ■ Sale of Kia Is Finalized

Hyundai Motor Co. sealed its 1.18 trillion won (\$947.4 million) acquisition of the bankrupt Kia Motors Corp., Bloomberg News reported

Hyundai Motor will pay 40 percent of the total to buy 51 percent of Kia and its Asia Motors Corp. af-Government Restructuring Committee, said the chaebol had sought

Tuesday to make preparations for eral Hyundai Motor affiliates.

> mance targets. "I'm not entirely surprised by the turn of events," said Bruce McKay, an analyst at DF Mainland & Co. Brierley has looked a lot more settled. Suddenly there doesn't seem to be a reason to say they need.

Brierley -

Turns Down

Roy Disney

WELLINGTON --- Briefley

Investments Ltd. on Tuesday

rejected an improved offer by the Roy Disney family to buy

management control of the New

Zealand investment company.

Shanrock Capital Advisors Inc., the Disney family's in-vestment vehicle, has been

wooing the company's direc-

tors for more than a month.

Last week it improved its pro-

posal to give Briericy cash in

exchange for stock and con-trol, offering to pay more and

to set management perfor-

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the money. In an effort to fend off the unwanted advances, Brierley has been reducing its debt burden to help strengthen its balance sheet. Its debt has been cut to less than 1.9 billion New Zealand dollars (\$1 billion). from 2.6 billion dollars, and the

company is now in a better financial position, Brierley said. Shamrock said it was strprised at the rejection.

"We were given strong signals that we were being very responsive to what certain elements in the company thought were essential to moving for-ward," Clifford Miller, Shamrock's managing director, said in Los Angeles.

Under Shamrock's offer, a would have had an option to take a stake in Brierley and would have provided a cash infusion of between 200 million

Miyazawa Is Cautious on Japan Recovery

Japan Venture Bloomberg News

TOKYO - Kiichi Miyazawa, Japan's finance minister, said Tuesday that it was too early to say whether the country's economy had bottomed out.

Mr. Miyazawa, speaking at a news Mr. Miyazawa, speaking at a news conference after a regular cabinet meeting, was apparently referring to comments last week by the chief of the Economic Planning Agency, Taichi Sakaiya, who said that recent indicators showed that the economy would not deteriorate further.

Mr. Miyazawa's view was echoed by Masaru Hayami, governor of the Bank of Japan, who said he expected banks to remain cautious on lending into 1999 and that he was worried about the economic outlook for the second half of next year.

Japan's economy shrank 0.7 percent in the year that ended March 31, and the government expects it to contract 1.8 percent in the current year as Japan's worst recession in a half-century drags on.

The government has tried various ways to spend its way out of the recession but so far has had little impact. Last week, the Finance Min-

(\$194 billion), would include 4 tril- the tax panel of the government itself, lion yen in individual income tax is scheduled to hammer out details of cuts and 2.3 trillion yen in corporate additional tax cuts by late this month. tax reductions. Some of the stimulus measures are now being debated in a special session of Parliament.

Mr. Miyazawa said the government shalest while he expected the government's latest

Mr. Miyazawa said the govern-ment should carry out additional taxcutting measures if they are deemed effective, including breaks on housing loans and education expenses.

The governing party's tax panel will start discussing other tax incentives this week. The body, along with

BANGKOK - The government

new foreclosure laws and the re-

capitalization of its ailing banks,

that politics and investor demand.

sent of the International Monetary

The move was made with the con-

Bangkok Delays Law Reform

(Bloomberg, Bridge News)

stimulus packages to bring the econ-omy a gradual recovery, he was con-

cerned about the outlook for the

second half of next year, when the

impact of these packages is expec-

ted to fade.

inet approved proposed quarterly revisions to the IMF aid program. said Tuesday that it would delay But some analysts said the postponement, coming as Thailand also is backing away from limits on govbacking away from part of its financial restructuring plan because ernment spending and other pledges of the "complexity" of legal reform in the original IMF plan, could slow or limit any economic recovery.

strengthened foreclosure, bankruptcy and foreign-ownership laws

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the No. 2 Japanese automaker, Fund, which imposed tough conbehind Toyota Motor Corp., ditions on Thailand under its bailout crucial to attracting capital to bolster and 600 million dollars in reistry announced that the governa financial system in which twowill own the remainder. ment's latest stimulus package, valpackage. The delay should not derail turn for management control. ued at as much as 24 trillion yen Thailand's economic recovery, the fifths of loans are in default. Advertisement For information please contact, Katy Hourl: Fax (33-1) 41 43 92 12 or e-mail: f INTERNATIONAL FUNDS December 1, 1998 1129 1734 1193 774 199 1435 2121 The Second Second Color Price Second 75.10 13.61 13.61 175.68 74.77 50.57 50.57 50.95 41.49 40.40 11.73 16.69 11.73 16.69 11.73 16.69 11.73 16.69 11.73 16.69 11.73 16.69 17.73 18.70 74.50 74.50 77.70 THE DASIS FUNDS SICAV

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Global Fund Chief's Favorite Turf Now: Europe

By William R. Long New York Times Service

Fort Myers, Florida, but his investment instincts have him become cyclical," Mr. Moss said, in part come the United States of Europe, he said, so you will poing back in the direction of his roots, the University of Liverpool, where he enrolled in 1966.

As manager of the \$1.23 billion Har-secular growth comhor International Growth fund, Mr. Moss panies on which one works for Jennison Capital Associates, a New York-based money manager that is sistent a subadviser of the fund for Harbor Capital Advisors of Tolcdo, Ohio.

But it is a relatively small world these days for Mr. Moss. About the only place he finds the sort of stocks he likes to buy imminent recession is in Europe, where about 95 percent of there, he expects the fund's assets are invested. The fund stocks—just 24 in the portfolio.

Using a bottom-up approach to investing based on corporate fundamentals, Mr. Moss says, he likes well-managed medium-sized to large-capitalization companies with long-term annual earnings growth of at least 15 percent and forward price-to-earnings ratios below that number. That kind of growth is hard to find in rocky economic landscapes such as Asia and Latin America.

His circumspect view may well have sharpened the fund's performance this year. It achieved a return of 14.3 percent through Nov. 20 - notably more than the 8.4 percent return of its better-known value-oriented sister fund, Harbor In-ternational, and the 8.3 percent average for its peer group of foreign stock funds, according to Morningstar Inc., the financial publisher based in Chicago.

Over three years, Harbor Internation-Growth has tallied an average annual return of 18.5 percent, compared with 16.2 percent for the sister fund and 9.2 percent for the peer group.

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In 1997, as much as 14 percent of the portfolio was in Hong Kong real estate and bank stocks. Mr. Moss reduced those holdings to zero by this summer, though he acknowledged that the Asian crisis still had hurt returns.

Asian companies outside Hong Kong do not tempt Mr. Moss.

"With the debacle of currency devaluations and falls in the stock market," he said: "the companies we used to follow in places like the Philippines and

Thailand, specifically, are no longer viable, in that their market capitalizations and in their market capitalizations are too low for us to become interested." said, the elimination of economic bor-EW YORK — Howard Moss As for Japan, companies such as Sony ders in the European Union offers nuge may work out of an office in Corp. Maisushita Electric Industrial Co. opportunities. From the individual companies of view, this will beand Hitachi Ltd. "have unformnately

because of slowing

consumer spending.

They are no longer

can rely" for con-

growth, he said. So

how is Mr. Moss

playing Europe? While he foresees no

earnings

With currencies and stock prices falling, companies we used to follow in places like the Philippines and Thailand are no longer viable.'

to 2 percent annually over the next 12 to northern neighbors. About one-third of 18 months from his estimate of 2.3 percent to 3 percent growth this year.

As a result, earnings in cyclical sec-tors such as chemicals, steel and automaking are likely to slump, while well-managed noncyclicals — the kind he prefers in any case — should do much better. That points to drug, telephone and bank companies as outperformers.

He says he expects European economic growth "to pick up from the

For companies that can expand, he ders in the European Union offers huge company point of view, this will be-

> see the growth of new pan-European companies." He predicted that many of those companies would be based in Southern Europe, where, after decades of high inflation and high interest rates, governments have adopted many of the

economic growth to slow to 1.5 percent disciplined economic policies of their his fund's assets are invested in Southern Europe, mainly in banks and telephone companies.

The fund's biggest holding, at 6.4 ercent of assets, is Unicredito Italiano, Milan-based bank previously named Credito Italiano. Its chief executive, Alessandro Profumo, is expanding the company, trimming costs and making it "very shareholder-friendly," Mr. Moss said. He said earnings were likely to

compound at more than 20 percent a year and that the share price, which was 9,486 lire (\$5.62) in late trading Tuesday, could double by 2001. He said he started buying the stock last year at 3,400.

nother big position in Southern Europe, at about 5 percent of the fund's assets, is Telefonica SA, which has about 85 percent of the conventional fixed-line telephone business in Spain and 71 percent of the cellular market.

The telecommunications giant, known until this year as Telefonica de Espana, also has major stakes in phone companies in Latin America, where stock prices have tumbled recently. But Mr. Moss said the growth potential of the Latin American telephone industry made those holdings a good long-term

He first bought Telefonica shares in 1994 at about 2,400 pesetas; on Tuesday they were at 6,610 (\$45.69). He predicts earnings growth of 15 percent to 20 percent annually over the next four to five years and said share prices would tend to rise at the same rate.

One of International Growth's newest holdings is Sanofi, a French pharmaceutical company, which Mr. Moss began buying at about 780 francs a share



Howard Moss runs the Harbor International Growth fund from Florida

Sanofi has two new cardiovascular drugs - Plavix, a blood thinner, and Avapro, which treats high blood pressure — that it is marketing worldwide with Bristol-Myers Squibb Co., and the

in late September. On Tuesday, it was at 983 (\$172.39). company is expected to announce the purchase of another French drugmaker,

Synthelabo, this week. Its sales have "exploded," Mr. Moss said. He forecasts earnings growth of as much as 25 percent annually for the next

Very briefly:

· Money held in Japanese postal savings accounts, the world's largest reservoir of deposits, totaled 248.259 trillion yen (\$2.02 trillion) at the end of November, a decline of 35 billion yen from late October, the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications said. The decrease stemmed from withdrawals by retirees, who receive government pension payments every other month. Those payments were not issued in October. Postal savings accounts offer slightly higher interest rates than banks and are backed by the Japanese government.

 Goldman, Sachs & Co. cut the weighting of equities in its global model portfolio and raised it for bonds, arguing that shares were less attractive after their rebound in recent weeks. Neil Williams, Goldman's global strategist, advised clients to cut global equities to 57 percent of holdings from 60 percent and to raise bonds to 33 percent from 30 percent. Recommendations for cash stayed at 7 percent and for commodities at 3 percent.

• Direct investments in Brazil gave the best returns in the world for U.S. companies from 1995 to 1996, ac-cording to a U.S. Commerce Department survey quoted by Gazeta Mercantil. According to the newspaper, the

report found that Brazilian subsidiaries of U.S. companies gave an average 8.4 percent net return on investments during the period, compared with a world average of 4.4 percent. Brazil has been engaged in an aggressive pri-vatization program since 1995 that has seen a wave of foreign companies buying up former state companies.

• Nickolas Ashford and Valerie Simpson, creators of rhythm-and-blues hits such as "Ain't No Mountain High Enough," sold at least \$10 million of bonds backed by royalties on some of their songs. The sale was arranged by the New York-based Pullman Group, headed by the investment banker David Pullman, who also led the sale last year of \$55 million in securities backed by royalties on some of David Bowie's music and a \$30 million sale in August for the Motown songwriters Edward Holland, Brian Holland and Lamont Dozier. The benefit to the artists of selling securities backed by royalties is that the artists retain rights to their creations and can raise money without selling off the works completely and without waiting years to amass the money through royalty payments.

VON ERNST GLOBAL PORTFOLIO

Luxembourg, 11, rue Aldringen R.C. Luxembourg N° B 30.176

DIVIDEND NOTICE

The Board of Directors resolved on 26 November 1998 to declare an interim dividend of the following sub-funds:

per share (Coupon N° 13) VB STERLING FIXED INTEREST GBP 0,46 per share (Coupon N° 13) EUROPEAN FIXED INTEREST XEU 0,20 per share (Coupon N° 6) **DEM 0.40** DW BOND per share (Coupon Nº 6) DM SHORT TERM DEM 0,30 per share (Coupon N° 13) USD 0,35 GLOBAL BOND

These dividends will be payable on 4 December 1998 to all the shareholders registered at the close of business on 30 November 1998 (NAV per 27 November 1998). The shares will be quoted ex-dividend on 1 December 1998 (NAV per 30 November 1998).

Paying agent: KREDIETBANK S.A. LUXEMBOURGEOISE 43, boulevard Royal L-2955 LUXEMBOURG

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World Roundup

Holyfield To Fight Lewis At Garden

BOXING Evander Holyfield and Lennox Lewis will step into the ring at Madison Square Garden. New York, on March 13 to determine the undisputed heavyweight champion of the world.

It will be the first heavyweight championship bout at the Garden since 1993, when Riddick Bowe retained his title against Michael Dokes. The winner will be the first undisputed heavyweight champion since Bowe beat Holyfield in November 1992.

Lewis (34-1) is the World Boxing Council champion, and Holy-field (36-3) holds the World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation titles.

The Garden has put up over \$8 million to stage the fight. Time Warner and HBO Sports, which will broadcast the fight in the United States, has guaranteed Holyfield \$20 million. Lewis has agreed to a

 \$9.5 million purse. (NYT)
 Terry Norris, a four-time world champion. announced his retire-ment Tuesday after failing in a bid to win the WBA super-welterweight title. Norris was stopped by Laurent Boudouani, a Frenchman, in the ninth round in Paris Monday. It was the 31-year-old American's third straight loss. (AFP)

All-Star Game Moved

BASEBALL Major League Baseball moved the 2000 All-Star Game from Miami to Atlanta amid reports the new owners of the Florida Marlins no longer want to hold the game as they seek a new stadium.

The team has been sold to John Henry, a commodities trader for \$158 million, in a deal that other owners must still approve.

Henry wants taxpayers to pay for a new stadium for the club and reportedly did not want to hold the All-Star Game in a stadium he claims is substandard.

ANC Criticizes Teams

South Africa's ruling African National Congress party on Tuesday complained in a statement that the country's rugby and cricket na-

tional teams were "lily-white."
The statement followed attacks by opposition parties on Steve Tshwete, the sports minister, who had said he was "fed up" that South were almost exclusively white.

Peter Pollock, the convenor of cricket selectors, said the cricket team was picked on merit.

South Africa's cricketers beat West Indies for the first time in a test match Monday. The rugby Springboks on Saturday equaled the record for consecutive international victories. There are nonwhite players in both squads, but none has played in

Roma Poised To Buy Nice **And Make It A Farm Club**

AS Roma, the Italian Serie A club. said Tuesday that it was close to taking over Nice, a French second division team, to develop young talents.

A spokesman for the Italian club

WORLD SOCCER

said negotiations with Nice had entered the final stage. "But the formal, final agreement has not yet been reached." the spokesman said. Roma officials said control of the

French team would allow Roma to fish for young players in France and in other "Nice would be a sort of breeding-

ground for young players and for those players Roma can't immediately field." said the spokesman.

Roma is second to Fiorentina in the Italian standings. Nice is last in the 20-team French second division, but it was champion of France four times in the 1950s and has won the French cup three times, most recently in 1997.

SINGAPORE A Singapore referee was jailed for eight months for accepting bribes to fix a match two years ago. The Straits Times reported Tuesday.

Ramasamy Rajandran, 45, was sentenced Monday in a district court for fixing an August 1996 match between Police Football Club and Sembawang Rangers, the newspaper said. Singapore's Corrupt Practices Inves-

tigation Bureau received a tip and arrested him on three charges of corruption. Ramasamy was also fined 10.250 Singapore dollars (\$6,200). AFRICA Mustapha Hadji, a Moroccan

midfielder who plays for Deportivo La Coruna, was voted African player of the year on Tuesday. Hadji narrowly beat Austin Okocha.

a Nigerian midfielder who plays for Paris Saint Germain, in the ballot of members of CAF's technical and press committees. Hadji polled 76 votes and Okocha received 74.

Sunday Oliseh. a Nigeriari defender who plays for Ajax Amsterdam, was third with 58 votes.

EUROPE Representatives of Europe's top clubs agreed Tuesday to pass on some of the revenue from the revamped Champions League to the domestic leagues of clubs that fail to qualify for

UEFA, the governing body of European soccer, predicts that the competition will generate 800 million Swiss francs (\$580.1 million) a year. UEFA will keep a quarter, the remaining 600 million Swiss francs will be distributed to the 32 participating clubs. They have agreed that five per cent will be given to

"This shows great solidarity," said Gerard Aigner, the UEFA General Secretary, after the meeting with representatives of 10 leading clubs.

(AP. Reuters, AFP)



Raul Gonzalez scoring the goal for Real Madrid that beat Vasco da Gama for the World Club Cup in Tokyo.

Real Madrid Gets a Trophy Goal

ONDON - Real Madrid boasts the most opulent trophy room in sports, though for almost four decades there has been a vacant space for one missing adornment — soccer's World Club Cup. That space will be filled just as soon as the team arrives back at Santiago Bernabeu stadium with the pot finally won in Tokyo on Tues-

Victory over Vasco da Gama, the champion of Brazil, came late. Real clinched the deal seven minutes from the end when Raul Gonzales, a Madrileno among so many hired foreigners, made the score 2-1 in the Spanish club's favor. Bravo, Rauf: So pure yet so unreliable is your talent, so often you promise, but at last, in the blink of an eye, you deliver a goal of a lifetime. Raul is 21. Real Madrid has wanted to

win back this prize for 38 years. Vasco da Gama, 100 years old, came within seven minutes of consecrating its centenary with something so prestigious.

The event is not quite as grand as it sounds. Its changing title over the years Intercontinental Cup, Toyota Cup, World Club Cup — reflects the struggle to put a name to it and hides the reality that it has been hard enough getting Latin America and Europe to send their champion clubs for a one-night stand in Tokyo. Harder still, in past years, was the task of making the two continents respect

the laws and the limbs of opponents.

A simple idea, the World Club Cup, but it became bedeviled by broken legs. The players' inexcusable excuse was that there were two interpretations of sportsmanship. One day, when the insatiable television companies persuade soccer to make time in their saturated schedules, there will be a rounded world club tournament, embracing Africa, Asia and Oceania.

Until then, the annual night in Tokyo is the limit. At least this time it was a Vantage Point/Ros Hughes

close encounter between a Madrid team built to attack and a Brazilian champion allowing adventure to get the better of its reputation for pragmatism. Vasco da Gama has a great place in

world soccer. It was the first organized club in Brazil and the first to include blacks. It was the team that caught the imagination of the young Pele.

In Tokyo, before 51,000 Japanese who love this annual taste of imported trophy-hunting, the Brazilians tried to outscore the famous team in white. They had been obliged to come out of their shell when Roberto Carlos, a countryman playing for the opposition, teased Naza into turning the ball past his goalkeeper, Germano, in the 26th minute.

Vasco railied to equalize half an hour later through Juninho, whose namesake plays for Atletico Madrid, scored majestically from 20 meters.

Tied it remained until the 83d minute. Then Raul performed. He was once a player for the enemy within Madrid, an Atletico apprentice until Jesus Gil, the Atletico president, in one of his fits of misjudgment, cast off the junior team, presuming youth to be too fleeting and too costly a gamble.

Many's the time Gil has scoffed that

Raul is too slight of frame, too in-consistent of form, to carry his great expectations. Tuesday was not such a time. Clarence Seedorf delivered a pass from his own half. Raul anticipated it. lured one defender to him, tricked him with wit and balance. Another turn, another sway of the hips, another defender left sprawling on the turf and Raul was free to shoot joyfully past the goalie.

As everyone knows, coaches gain and lose their livelihood on the whims of match winners. In Germany, unem-ployed, Jupp Heynckes will have been watching. Heynckes built this Real side

around Raul, and suffered the wrath of Lorenzo Sanz, the club president. Among his crimes. Heynckes did not make room in defense for Fernando Sanz.

On Tuesday his successor, Guus Hiddink, selected the president's son and got away with it. Hiddink knows it is a fickle game, a fickle world. Last week, Real lost, 3-1, to Inter in Milan, where Roberto Baggio, another forward who fluctuates between frailty and genius, ran rings around Sanz to score two late goals that appeared to save Luigi Simoni, the Inter coach. On Sunday, Simoni had another victory. On Monday he was pronounced Italy's coach of the year.

Two hours later, amid the congratulatory messages, Simoni took the call that told him that Massimo Moratti, Inter's president, had lost patience and flown in the Romanian coach Mircea Lucescu to replace him. Thank you and good night, Gigi.
Things would have been different had

Baggio always been fit, or had Ronaldo, at 22, not been handicapped by chronic knee joints.

Alas, poor Ronaldo; alas, poor Si-moni; alas, poor game that burdens one with far too many demands and too much stress for the body to take.

Raul, like Ronaldo, suffers between goals. The one he scored Tuesday makes everyone happy. Among his admirers is Simoni, a coach who was 58 before he was offered a top-flight team.

'Nothing," he said of last week's game, "is more beautiful than playing against Real Madrid. Six years ago, I. was coaching a third-division team, now I am facing the champion of Europe. What more can I ask? Time, sir, time.

Rob Hughes is chief sportswriter for The Times of London.

Court Grants U.S. Gymnast **Protection** From Father

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By Jere Longman

YORK — Dominique Moceanu, the 17-year-old Olympic gymnast, received a temporary protective order in a Texas court against help father, whom she accused of stalking and harassing her since she won eman-

and narassing ner since she won eman-cipation from her parents a month ago. She said Monday night, the day she, won the judgment, that her father had-hired a private investigator to trail her, had waited outside her high school as she arrived and left, and had tried to follow her. Moceanu also said she believed her father had tapped her phone.

She was granted adult status by a

Houston judge in a ruling Oct. 28. That decision appeared to have resolved a lawsuit in which she accused her parents of squandering the earnings from her, gymnastics career, which reached its zenith with a gold medal at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta.

Moceanu said Houston police detectives told her Nov. 13 that they were investigating allegations that her father Dimitru Moceanu, was trying to his someone to kill one of her friends and her gymnastics coach.

The Houston police said Monday that its homicide division had investigated threats allegedly made in the case, but that the matter was inconclusive.

"The case is now closed," a Houston police spokesman said.

Katherine Scardino, the Houston lawyer representing Dimitru Moceanu, said Monday night that she had spoken with a Houston police officer about a tape-recorded conversation during which threats were allegedly made by Moceanu against. a 32-year-old friend of his daughter's.

Moceanu may want to "get his hands. around" the neck of his daughter's friend, Scardino said, but he does not want him killed.

Referring to Dominique Moceanu, Scardino said: "She's still 17 years old. and running around with people who obviously messed her up so bad. It's. difficult for a parent to back off and let her make all these mistakes."

But Scardino said she told Moceanisthat his daughter was an adult and that inwas time to "back off and leave her Ellen Yarrell, Dominique Moceanu's

lawyer, said, "This is a story about a father stalking and threatening his daughter."

Moceann left her family's home in October and moved to an apartment in the Houston area. She has not lived in the apartment for the past two and a half weeks, she said, because she fears for her safety. She has stopped attending school and may hire security personnel

to protect her, she said. 'I'm scared.'' Moceanu said: ''You just don't know what's possible. This has been tough on my mental and physical health. I'm really stressed out."

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NFL STANDINGS AMERICAN CONFERENCE

FOOTBALL

Luck Finally Smiles on Slumping Canadiens

The Associated Press MONTREAL — In a game between two slumping National Hockey League teams, the Canadiens got a stroke of

Saku Koivu, a Montreal center, was credited with the game's opening goal, at the 6:17 mark of the second period, but Sean O'Donnell, a Los Angeles de-fenseman, actually steered Koivu's rebound into his own net.

snapped a three-game losing streak.

Los Angeles has managed to accu-

mulate only five points in its last 14 games and has lost eight of its last nine. As he was sliding face down toward the net, Koivu managed to direct a shot that seemed to catch the Los Angeles

7 5 0 .583 268 242 7 5 0 .583 262 236 2 10 0 .167 208 336

9 2 0 .750 311 247 7 5 0 .583 224 218 6 6 0 .500 260 237 5 7 0 .417 205 247 2 10 0 .167 197 321

5 7 0 417 181 247

That started the Canadiens to a 3-1 directed the puck into the net.

victory Monday night as Montreal "It's getting frustrating for us because we aren't getting any of the bounces," Fiset said.

"I'll take it," Koivu said. Fiset looked sharp while turning: aside 27 shots. Glenn Murray, a Kings forward, scored his 10th goal of the season on a drive from the point with goalie, Stephane Fiset, by surprise. He 3:33 left in the third to spoil the shutoni made a toe save, but O'Donnell's stick bid by Montreal's goalie, Jeff Hackett. 3:33 left in the third to spoil the shotont

SCOREBOARD ICEHOCKEY

NHL Standings

CENTRAL
11 1 0 .917 394 220
8 4 0 .667 314 240
5 7 0 .417 244 263 W L T PIS GF GA 13 8 0 26 73 50 9 6 5 21 57 47 9 12 1 19 53 68 4 14 3 15 48 82 8 13 2 15 43 PACEPT DIVISION 14 2 2 30 53 26 12 4 3 27 53 39 8 10 4 20 53 53 6 14 3 15 50 66 5 11 5 15 49 56 Sen Francisco 31, New York Gloris 7

BASKETBALL MONDAY RESULTS

Mostredi
Pirsi Period: None. Second Period: MKohru 4. (pp). Third: Period: M-Strunge 6
(Hoghund, Webricht) 3. M-Rodinsky 6. 4.
LA. Murray 10 (Bodges Strungel) Shots en
gons: LA. 8-38-19. M. 10-13-7-30.
Godlies: LA. Fiset. M-Hockett. 700 25 No. 1. N. Carelina (7-0) dei, Middle Tn. 75-54. No. 24. Catason (6-1) dei. Radiord 70-37. No. 25. St. Johns (4-0) dei. St. Francis, N.Y. 97-62. LEADING COLLEGES Provigence 74, Masne 72 Florida 110, Coostal Carolina 68 in 69, Bethune-Cook Louislana Tech 63, Naritwestom 51, 41 Memphis 86, Ark.-Pine Bluff 42 Massissopsi 51, 82, Sans Houston 51, 67

South Carolina 73, Jacksonville 56 Termessee 84, W. Carolina 41 Vanderbill 83, Florida A&M 72 Wake Forest 75, VMI 61 iBinois 53, Valparaiso 49 Michigan 60, Towson 45 Toledo BS, Miss. Valley \$1.53 Houston 67, LSU 55 Idaho 85, W. Mon WOMEN

No. 2 Le. Tack (3-1) lost to No. 3 To. (4-1) 92-73. No. 15 Vinginia (3-3) lost to Vinginia Tech 81-65. No. 25 Clemson (5-0) def. Winthrop 65-54. THE AP TOP 25

Top 25 teams in Associated Prees' women's college basinstell poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Nov. 28, total points based on 25 points for first-place vote through one point for 25th-place vote and pravious ranking: 3 9 0 250 197 275
west 1. Connecticut (37) 10 2 0 .833 325 218 2. Louislana Tech (2) 3 Termessee (2) 4. Purdoe 3 9 0 259 307 285 5. Goargle 2 10 0 .167 236 322 6. Natre Dome 7. Alaborna 1. Publisher

7, Alaboma 8. Old Dominion 10.UCLA 16. Duke 17. N. Carolina St. 18. iown St. 19. Kansas 20. Vanderbilt 21. Florida 22. G. Washington 23. Vebraska 24. Starford 25. Gernson

25. Ciemson
Offiers receiving votes: UC Sount Borbare
33. Wisconsin 78. Penn St. St. Vriginio Tech
48. Illinois 29. Fiz. International 28. Memphis
25. Wothington 24. Aubum 23. Oregon 21.
Hamail 13. Mempetite 8. Kentucky 4. Drake 1.
Indiana 2. New Mexico 2. Northwestern 2.
Southern Cal 2. Artaona 1. Southern Cal 1. Butter 1. De-Paul 1. Southern Math. 1. Toledo 1.

SOCCER INTERCONTINUENTAL CUP PARAGUAY FINAL, FIRST LEG Cerro Porteno 2, Offinpio 2

TRANSITIONS **BASERALL** MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

MINNESOTA—Nomed Scott Utger hitting
cooch, Ron Gorderhine 36 bose cooch, JepaWhite is bose cooch, Woyne Krivsky assistant
general manager, Lary Corrigion special 58;
sistori to general manages, Steve Liddle minof
teogue field convincitor and Gregg Mater area
scout for Konsas. Massouri and Oklohema.

TEXAS—Agreed to terms with SS Royce,
Cotyton an 4-year contract.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

ARIZONA—Agreed to terms with LHP
Rondy Johnson on 4-year contract.

**FOOTBALL LEAGUE*

CARDLINA—Suspended HB Fred Lone for
an obsceep gesture during Nov. 29 game.

LAKISONVILLE—Puri OL Jeff Novek fit injured reserve. Activated OL Maris Nori from
practice squad.

57. LOUIS—Pot S Toby Wright and LB
Charlie Clertons on Injured reserve. SignedDT Corey Sears and LB Philip Word from
practice squad.

NATIONAL HOCKEY

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

AMAHEIM—Recolled C Math Culten from
Cincinnati, AHL.

NASHVILLE—Named Roy Shero posishon'
goneron manager. penersi monoger.
PHOENIX-Recoiled D Bryon Helmer from

PHOEMIX—Recolled D Bryon Helmar from Los Vegos, IHL.

SAN JOSE—Recossigned D Jon Robick to Kerecs City, IHL.

ST. LOUIS—Recolled F Terry Yake and Louis—Recolled C Might Cooks from Syracuse, AHL. Syracuse, AHL

OURS-Pired Fred Goldsmith, joytball DUKE-FIRE FIRE COLLING LIGHTS
COCK.
ICENTUCKY—Announced OL Jones Liening
was dismissed from football born.
ROBTHEAST LOUISIANA—Fired Ed Zaunbrecher, football coach.

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By Bill Pennington New York Tunes Service

SAN FRANCISCO - For the New York Giants, it began with a bomb, but it ended as just another dud

The Giants' offense momentarily shed its staid, sober image Monday night against the San Francisco 49ers. On the Giants' first play from scrimmage, Kent Graham, the quarterback, connected with wide receiver Ike Hilliard for a startling 48-yard pass play that set up the first Giants touchdown in San Francisco in this decade.

The 49ers were not terribly impressed. With cool efficiency, they powly railied, scoring in every quarter and shutting out the Giants for the remainder of the game for a 31-7 victory.

The 49ers' march to the playoffs con-times, although they did lose defensive tackle Bryant Young, who collided with his teammate Ken Norton in the fourth quarter and suffered a broken right leg.
As for the Giants, their scant playoff hopes dissolved further as their record fell to 4-8.

The different talent levels of these two teams was obvious, especially in the fourth quarter. It was then that the San Francisco defense thwarted every Gianis drive and the 49ers offense wore

down a fatigued Giants defense. But even in victory, the mood at 3Com Park was somber as 49ers players talked about Young, their injured lineman, and the effect of his injury.

"He is a truly respected leader on this said Steve Young, the 49ers'

quarterback. "On defense, he is the man the guy they all look up to. It's not an injury we'll overcome easily. But we'll have to do our best."

Midway through the fourth quarter, Norton's helmet struck the defensive tackle's right leg at the end of a run by Graham: Television replays showed the defender's lower leg bending backward as Norton made his tackle attempt.

"I didn't see him because I was spinming around, but I heard his leg crack,"
Graham said. "I looked down and saw
he was harting big time. It was like he
had another joint in his shin."
Graham finished the game with 237

passing yards, completing 21 of 41 passes with one interception

Graham was especially effective throwing to Hilliard, who had six carches for 141 yards, including the game-opening bomb. That started a drive that finished with Gary Brown scoring on an 11-yard run.

The last Giants touchdown in a game played at 3Com Park, formerly known as Candlestick Park, was a touchdown pass to Odessa Turner during a 34-24 San Francisco victory over the Giants in 1989. The game Monday night was the fifth between the teams since that game.

While the Giants were surprisingly spirited and efficient in their first drive and most of the first quarter, the 49ers seemed out of sync early in the game. But on a second-and-10 late in the first quarter, Young took one step off the line of scrimmage and threw to his left, where Terrell Owens was waiting. Owens by Conrad Hamilton, a Giants cornerback, and then evaded a similar attempt by safety Sam Garnes a few yards downfield before sprinting up the sideline for a 75-vard touchdown that tied the score.

On the 49ers' final possession of the half, Young orchestrated a brilliant 13play, 90-yard touchdown drive. The key play came on a third-and-3 at the Giants' 10-yard line when Young ran for 9 of his 62 rushing yards in the game.

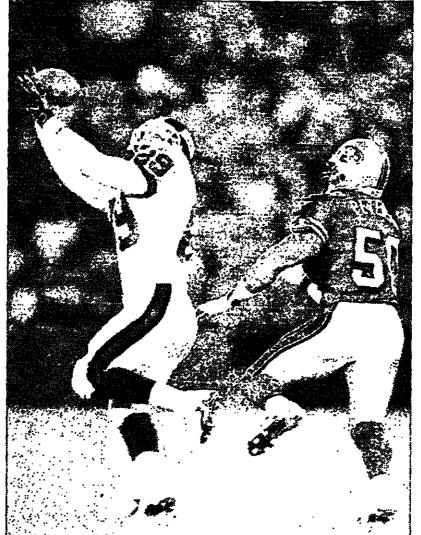
A one-yard touchdown pass from Young to Irv Smith, who was uncovered in the Giants' end zone, followed on the next play.

Garrison Hearst, who had 166 yards on 20 carries, added a 70-vard touchdown run late in the game.

The game was decided in the third quarter when the 49ers slipped away from the Giants, scoring a pivotal touchdown after the teams traded punts. The Giants got the worst of that exchange a poor punt, poor coverage and a need-less penalty giving the 49ers superb field position for their scoring drive.

Leading the game by 14-7, the 49ers began their possession at New York's 37-yard line. Less than three minutes later, Terry Kirby scored on a seven-yard run, bulldozing the Giants' linebacker Marcus Buckley at the goal line.

The 49ers totaled 466 yards, 300 in the first half. Young was 19-for-33 for 253 yards and two touchdowns, and gained 62 yards on five carries. Owens had five catches for 140 yards, including a 79-yard scoring play, and Hearst rushed for 166 yards, including a 70stepped over an inexpert attempted tackle yard scoring run, on 20 attempts.



The Giants' tight end Andy Haase, pulling in a pass from quarterback Kent Graham, leaving the 49ers' linebacker Anthony Peterson behind.

Texas — all won.

The coaches refuse to make their votes

And while the math whiz Jeff Sagarin

- whose computer ranking is part of the

Bowl Championship Series equation --

is assuredly an upstanding fellow, who is checking his numbers? He still main-

tains that Kansas State will make the

Kansas State is No. 1 in his computer.

But, what if UCLA beats Miami on

Saturday but falls from No. 2 to No. 4 in

Sagarin's computer, and that becomes

the margin that pushes Kansas State past

UCLA in the bowl championship rank-

Why shouldn't he sell that concept?

Fiesta Bowl if it wins Saturday.

public, so we will never know if the

coach who took a No. I vote away from

UCLA may have had an ax to grind.

Orioles Sign Belle, Paying \$65 Million Over 5 Years

اعكذامن المدعور

BALTIMORE - Albert Belle became the highest-paid player in the his-tory of the Baltimore Orioles on Tues-

The slugger agreed to a \$65 million. five-year contract Monday night and signed with the Orioles before he was introduced Tuesday at a news conference at Camden Yards.

Belle said Baltimore was his favorite team when he was growing up and that Eddie Murray, now a coach for the team, was one of his heroes.

"I finally get an opportunity to come here," he said. "I'm looking forward to working with these guys. They definitely want to go all out to win. This club is definitely a contender.

Frank Wren, the Orioles' general manager, called Belle "one of the out-

standing hitters" in baseball Wren seitled Friday with Belle's agent. Am Tellem, on the financial terms of the deal. But while the sides worked to solidify other issues. Belle did some probing on his own.

According to a source who was in contact with several major league teams, on Monday Belle called Brian Cashman, the New York Yankees' general manager, and Ron Schueler, the Chicago White Sox's general manager. asking if they were interested in him.

New York withdrew its offer last week after Bernie Williams re-signed for \$87.5 million over seven years.

Belle had until Wednesday to return to the White Sox and complete a \$55 million, five-year deal that guaranteed This week, UCLA lost a No. 1 vote in him \$35 million in the next three seathe coaches' poll and Kansas State sons, but Chicago refused to increase his gained one, even though neither school played and three schools UCLA has already beaten — Arizona, USC and

So Belle chose the Orioles, who were lagging behind other American League contenders in the free-agent sweepstakes and overlooked Belle's checkered past by offering him one of the most lucrative contracts in baseball history.

The contract ties Belle with Mike Piazza of the New York Mets for the third-highest average salary (\$13 million) behind only Anaheim's Mo Vaughn (\$13.33 million) and Arizona's Randy Johnson (\$13.1 million).

The deal is the sixth highest in total dollars, trailing only Piazza (\$91 million), Williams, Vaughn (\$80 million). Boston's Pedro Martinez (\$75 million) and the Los Angeles Dodgers' Gary Sheffield (\$68.5 million). Belle hit .328 this year with 49 homers and 152 runs batted in. He led

the American League in slugging percentage (.655) and total bases (399).

You tell Me every Morning.

WAYE !! I'M KEPING YOU OIL AM I

SORRY!

Puzzled by Bowl Championship Rating? Blame the Computer

Los Angeles Times Service

IN ONE of the strangest twists yet in the six-week life of the Bowl Championship Series rankings, Tennessee - which whacked Vanderbilt, 41-0 lost ground to the two teams behind it, UCLA and Kansas State, even though neither of them played.

In the latest rankings, Tennessee remained first at 4.99 but led No. 2 UCLA. at 5.03, by only four-hundredths of a computer point.

Kansas State held firm at No. 3 with 6.31, the same total it had last week, and the gap between UCLA and Kansas State remained almost unchanged. UCLA improved its position in strength of schedule by one position, from No. 8 to No. 7, allowing it to tack 0.04 onto

UCLA received nelp from its Pacific Ten Conference foes Arizona and Southern California, which scored vicetories last weekend over Arizona State

DENNIS THE MENACE.

My Dad says you like to put in your Two CENTS' worth, so here."

elemot

NOPER

UTTOLE

ROMMEY

Vantage Point/ Chris Dufresne

YES, MA'AM ... GET OUT

YOUR BOOTS .. CHANGE THE

ANTIFREEZE IN YOUR CAR.

CHECK STORED VEGETABLES

AND REMOVE ANY THAT SHOW SIGNS OF ROTTING.

and Notre Dame, opponents that UCLA did not play this season.

Tennessee, conversely, took a beating by defeating Vanderbilt (2-9) on Saturday, and also took a computer hit from Georgia's loss to Georgia Tech.

Tennessee's Bowl Championship Series rating average of 1.5 and com-puter ranking of 2.33 did not change, but the Volunteers dropped from 14th to 29th in the strength of schedule category.

The bowl championship ratings Monday only heighten the interest before the high stakes triple header Saturday: Kansas State (11-0) meets Texas A&M (10-2) in the Big 12 championship game in St. Louis; Miami (8-3) is host to UCLA (10-0) in a makeup of the Sept. 26 game wiped out by Hurricane Georges, and Tennessee (11-0) and Mississippi State (8-3) play in the Southeastern Conference title game.

PEANUTS

YES MAAM? WELL, I

THOUGHT MAYBE A

GARFIELD.

MEYARRRP!

BLIZZARD MIGHT BE

HEADED THIS WAY..

Only 1.32 rating points separate No. 1 Tennessee and No. 3 Kansas State, yet only the top two schools in the final bowl championship standings next Sunday will play in the Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 4.

If all three of the undefeated schools win. Kansas State would make up the most ground in strength of schedule because the Wildcats have beaten Texas A&M, ranked No. 8. Yet, the Wildcats

also have the most ground to make up. Tennessee should be able to hold onto a top spot with a victory over Mississippi State. UCLA should be in good shape if the Bruins defeat the Hurricanes. But there are too many variables to make take-it-to-the-bank predictions.

Conspiracy theorists should take note: The slightest fluctuation in The Associated Press writers or ESPN/ USA Today coaches polls, or in the three participating computer rankings.

ANYTHING ELSE?

YES, MA'AM ..

could shift the balance of power.

In the AP poll, for example, No. 1 Tennessee leads No. 2 Kansas State by only 30 points. Yet, incredibly, two of the 70 voting writers did not turn in their ballots this week.

The race in the coaches' poll is even tighter. No. 2 Tennessee closed to within three points of No. 1 Kansas State. Should Tennessee pass Kansas State

next week in the coaches' poll, UCLA will gain a half-point on the Wildcats in the Bowl Championship Series computer and, more important, the coaches will be off the hook for the potential embarrassment of having their No. 1 team not being able to play in the Fiesta

In any case, the coaches have a history of inconsistent voting. Last year. the coaches awarded Nebraska a share of the national title even though Michigan, the coaches' No. 1 team before the bowls, beat Washington State in the Rose Bowl.

BRING THE

DOG IN.,

COMBINATION MEOW,

CALVIN AND HOBBES









NON SEQUITUR





DOONESBURY





BEETLE BAILEY



CROUP DRONE FACING ENDTIC Vital may did when their luggings was lost CARRIED CH





CATS CAN MAKE SOME VERY STRANGE SOUNDS



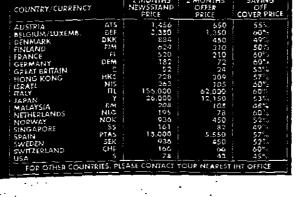


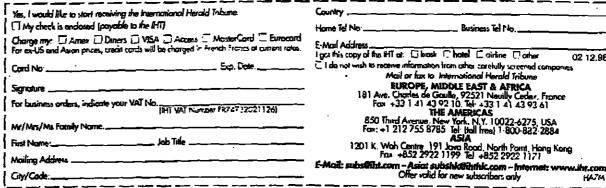




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By Russell Baker

dreary days of vesteryear when relevision was blackand-white, Dad was a hopeless san and Mom was still the virgin mother of two.

We are talking, of course, about the 1950s, and this a funny and thoroughly confused movie based on the ever popular notion that the 1950s was the black hole of the 20th

misconception is so common even knows sex is possible. nowadays. My theory is that it's because the Fifties was the golden age for parents of today's baby boomers, who now run things and, so, are in

charge of revising history. Their parents had lived in a heroic age, prevailing against of the basketball team and poverty and tyranny, leaving pretty soon their example has poverty and tyranny, leaving their children doomed to know all the kids in town being only the unheroic tranquillity naughty up in Lover's Lane. of peace and prosperity.

Born too late to get in on the big show, and being only human, the children might naturally resent their parents' triumph and take vengeance by belittling what the old glory. Which, of course, was

Nowadays the unheroic era of peace and prosperity has degenerated into an age of decadence. In middle age, today's boomers now con-front a world of their own making which cannot much comfort their spirits.

What do they see? A society ruled by greed and moral license. A nation whose governing political theory is

devil-take-the-hindmost. You could make a strong case for the thesis that the century's real black hole is

right here, right now, and that it is the creation of people who

were "kids" in the Fifties. With us now to those the familiar malarkey in genial, clever, all-in-good-fun style until it loses its head and presents its Fifties reactionaries as homespun Nazi book

burners and Kristallnacht

window smashers. about the 1950s, and this week's vehicle for taking us about two Nineties adolesback is "Pleasantville." It is cents who get trapped in a a funny and thoroughly contown created for a 1950s TV siteom. What a no-fun town! It's all black-and-white. The as the black hole of the 20th high school students have never heard of sex. Neither have Morn and Dad. Nobody

> The teenage visitors don't put up very long with this deprived state of affairs. The girl, apparently a seasoned slut, soon deflowers the star

As sexual activity spreads through town, life becomes richer, better and the population starts losing its black and gray complexion and breaking out in glorious Technicolor. The town is now folks made of their moment of ready for a Nineties sitcom to move in. The real joke here is on the 1990s, which have no sitcom to compare with the Fifties' "I Love Lucy" and no TV humor at all to compare with the Fifties' Sid Caesar shows: Check out "Saturday Night Live" or

Politically Incorrect."

No, the Fifties decade was not so glorious as old-timers claim, but it had its many excellences. For us here in the Nineties to sneer at the Fifties is as silly as it would be for President Bill Clinton to sneer

at General Eisenhower.

Alice Munro Forsakes Her Lair Only in Stories

By Dinitia Smith Sen Eink Times Service

LINTON, Ontario — It's hard to get to Alice Munro, to this little town in the rolling farmland of southern Canada. In the autumn light, Clinton seems bleak, a cluster of small undistinguished houses of wood or yellow brick set in rich black soil, overwhelmed by the landscape around it. Clinton is not for the uncourageous. But Munro will never leave. She finds her stories here amid the descendants of the Scottish settlers, with their mod-est, restrained ways, their short, tothe-point sentences. It's all the material she could ever want. "I love living here." Munro said. "I love the landscape so much — more than love it. It's something I know so thoroughly I don't want to detach from it. I like living in isolation."

Alice Munro has been called one of the best short-story writers in the English language. Her books sell about 25,000 to 30,000 copies a year, very good for a short-story writer. She is a writer other writers admire for her technical skills and the purity of her style. She is known for the complex structure of her stories. A typical Alice Munro story might begin at a point that most writers would consider the end, then jump to a time 10 years later then back again. "With Alice it's like a short-

hand," said the novelist Richard Ford. "You'll just mention her. and everybody just kind of generally nods, that she's just sort of as

good as it gets. Munro has been awarded Canada's Governor General's Award three times. This month she won the Giller Prize, one of Canada's biggest literary awards. And she always comes back to Clinton.

scape." she admined. But "I love a life apart from the whole world of writing." Every winter she takes a break at her condominium in Comox, British Columbia.

"It's not a really beautiful land-

Munro's stories are about or-

dinary people: their secrets, their memories of acts of violence, their sexual longings. In 'Cortes Island," in her new collection, "The Love of a Good Woman, a would-be writer takes a job caring for an old man, Gorrie. Munro writes that the narrator is aware of "his pungent smell, his jelly eye, his dog's teeth." But she has sexual dreams about him, "pagan" dreams "in which the attack, the response, the possibilities, went beyond anything life offered. And from which romance was banished. Decency as well. Our bed — Gorrie's and mine - was the gravelly beach or the rough boat deck or the punishing coils of greasy rope.'
In "Before the Change."

other harrowing story in the col-lection, a woman discovers her father is an abortionist. She assists him as he operates. "He had a series of rods, all of the same length. but of a graduated thickness." the character says. "I could not see the actual, intimate progress of these instruments. But I could feel it. from the arriving waves of pain in her body that beat down the spasms of apprehension.

Munro said: "The thing I feel most strongly makes a story is a kind of primordial moment, an awful revelation, that you can't do anything about."

are about what Munro calls "a new kind of old woman, women who grew up under one set of rules and then found they could live with

The "new kind of old woman" is about 60, has been something of a hippie in her youth, has had a period of irresponsibility, an affair and has sometimes in effect abandoned her children to the care of others.

We associate old women with conventional sexual morality," said Munro, who is 67. But "a lot of women lived more risky lives than their daughters. You take the risk of being lonely." Munro's favorite story in her

book is "Save the Reaper." A grandmother who had a daughter



Some stories in the collection Munro has been called one of the best short-story writers.

out of wedlock feels her daughter's resentment. One day the older woman picks up a hitchhiker, a girl, who makes a sexual pass at her. At the end the woman wonders if the girl will ever come back and see her again. But, Munro writes: "The girl wouldn't come, Much better offers would turn up before she'd stood 10 minutes by the highway. More dangerous offers perhaps, but more interesting.

Munro was raised in Wingham. Ontario, 20 miles (32 kilometers) from Clinton. Her father, Robert Laidlaw, was a fox farmer, her mother a teacher. Ancestors have been in Huron County since the 1850s. Her story "A Wilderness

Station" was inspired by an an-cestor who was killed by a tree.

Munro's family was poor, she said. When the family farm failed, her father worked in a foundry. He longed to write a novel and finished one just before his death at 75. "The McGregors: A Novel of an Ontario Pioneer Family" was published a short time later.

Munro began writing poetry secretly at the age of 11. She was an avid reader, benefiting, she points out, from the library system that Andrew Carnegie established in Canada. But she was raised to be a farmer's wife. "In my background, ambition isn't valued." she said. "Being modest and ac-

cepting your limitations and trying not to stand out, it's a tribal value." When she was 12, her mother became ill with Parkinson's disease. Munro took over the household until she won a two-year scholarship to the University of Western Ontario. While a student, she sold: her first story, to the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. She also met a fellow student

May 2 Daily As was progress

Being Reas

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200 A 100 A

James Munro, whom she married, The Munros had three daughters: Sheila, now 45, Jenny, 41, and Andrea, 31. A fourth daughter died at birth. Munro struggled to be a mother and a writer. Her husband, she said, was supportive. "Quite early she used to send stones to.
The New Yorker, he remembered recently. They came back
so fast, he said, that she had the feeling that someone's job was just to send them back. 'She had a

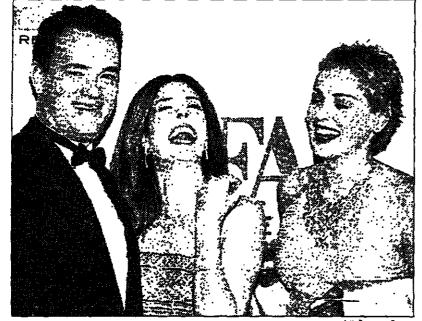
to send them back. "She had a whole lot of guilt about writing," he said. "Her friends phoned and she wouldn't tell them." Munro suffered deep depressions. "I was doing two jobs and not doing either one of them as well as I wished," she said of the years spent being a mother and trying to write.

trying to write. In 1972, Munro and her husband were divorced. Munro moved back to Ontario, from Victoria. British Columbia, and Gerald Fremlin, whom she had known in college. resurfaced in her life. He had gone on to become a geographer. "We drank three martinis," she said, and we very speedily decided we were going to stay together." They

were married in 1976. Today, Munro lives an isolated life in the small white clapboard house where Fremlin was raised. She begins writing first thing in the morning. She revises extensively and then sends her work straight to her agent in New York. "I would never give my work to anyone to read." she said. "I have too little confidence, not the real confidence to be a writer." She added. "Even Gerry doesn't read my work."

Yes I do." Fremlin said. "Bur we don't discuss it.'

PEOPLE



actress Sharon Stone arriving at the "Seasons of Hope" benefit sponsored by the American Foundation for AIDS Research in New York City.

THE French singer and actress Vanessa Paradis is expecting a baby by the American actor Johnny Depp, the French weekly Voici said in its latest issue. They are not married but have thought about tying the knot, the weekly said. Paradis has just finished shooting 'Une fille sur le pont' (A girl on the bridge), directed by Patrice Leconte, and Depp is starring in Roman Po-lanski's latest film, "The Ninth Gate."

Ellen DeGeneres says she went into a deep depression after ABC canceled her show this year. *Everything that I ever feared happened to me. I lost my show. I've been attacked like hell. I went from making a lot of money on a sitcom to making no money." she said in the Los Angeles Times Magazine. DeGeneres revealed her homosexuality when her character on "Ellen" came out in April 1997. The show's ratings dropped, and it was canceled about a year later.

Sinead O'Connor and Van Mor-

bombing in Omagh, in Northern Ireland. The album, "Across the Bridge of Hope," features U2 and Boyzone, and includes a reading by the actor Liam Neeson of a poem written by Shaun McLaughlin, a 12-year-old boy who was killed in the attack. The poem about peace in Northern Ireland inspired the

rison lent their voices to a star-studded

album released Monday in Britain to

raise money for victims of the August The singer and songwriter Janis Ian

title of the album. A car bomb planted

killed 29 people and wounded 370 in the

says she needs surgery to remove a benign liver tumor. The tumor, discovered in August, is pressing on her stomach, causing abdominal pain, Ian said in a statement. No further details

Hollywood Stars Take British Stage Awards

ONDON — The Hollywood actors Nicole Kidman and Kevin Spacey won L top honors at the theatrical awards ceremony sponsored by the Evening

Standard newspaper.

Kidman, star of David Hare's "The Blue Room," took home a special award for her contribution to the London theater. Kidman's brief run at the Donnar Warehouse theater, for which she was paid the union minimum of £250 (\$400) a week, was a sell-out. The play has moved to New York.

Spacey won the best actor award for his performance at the Almeida Theatre in Eugene O'Neill's "The Iceman Cometh." The Almeida itself, which has attracted such movie stars as Juliette Binoche and Liam Neeson to its stage, won an award for "theatrical achievement" of the year.

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about the tumor or the surgery were released. Ian had her first hit in 1967 with "Society's Child"

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A spokesman for Michael Jackson dismissed a British newspaper report that said the pop star was considering sending his 21-month-old son to a Bridge ish boarding school when the boy reaches high school age. "No one knows anything about this. They make this stuff the spokesman, Bob Jones, said. The Sunday Telegraph said Jackson had sent a representative to inspect Stowe, in Buckinghamshire, and inquire about booking a place for the child, Prince The school has declined to comment.

A private book collection was auctioned off in Paris for 23 million francs (\$4 million), as bibliophiles leaped on illustrated medieval books of hours. The collection belonged to Major Paul-Louis Weiller (1893-1993), a World War I fighter pilot who became an industrialist and patron of the arts.



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